

Ministers vote aid to S. Lebanon

TUNIS (R) — Arab ministers of social affairs meeting in Tunis have decided to send urgent material aid to residents of southern Lebanon to bolster their resistance to the Israeli occupation, an official of the Arab League said Wednesday. Assistant Secretary-General Ibrahim Essaad Al Ibrahim made the announcement in a statement quoted by the Tunisian news agency TAP at the end of the two-day meeting. He said the ministers had also decided to send assistance to Palestinian victims of the Israeli invasion in Lebanon, but did not spell out the nature of the aid. On the Gulf war, the ministers expressed concern over the fate of Iraqi prisoners in Iran and called on Tehran to respect the Geneva Convention on treatment of prisoners of war. They also invited the International Red Cross, which has expressed concern for the wellbeing of Iraqis in Iranian prisoner of war camps, to ensure their protection.

Hussein, Noor leave for Britain

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday left for the United Kingdom on a private visit expected to last several days. The King and Queen are accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of Jordanian officials. Before the King's departure Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent.

Weinberger due in S. Arabia today

BAHRAIN (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger will pay a short visit to Saudi Arabia Thursday for talks with the Saudi defence and aviation minister, Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Press Agency said.

Numeiri to visit China next week

PEKING (R) — Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri will pay a state visit to China from Dec. 10-15, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman announced Wednesday. He said Mr. Numeiri was coming at the invitation of Chinese President Li Xianmin. The two leaders met while attending national day celebrations in Romania in August this year.

Saudia jet hits PIA plane

KARACHI (R) — A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Airbus was slightly damaged when a Saudi Airlines Boeing 747 jet hit it at Karachi airport Wednesday, a PIA spokesman said. He said the PIA jet's tail hit the parked A-300 Airbus Wednesday morning causing slight damage to it, but nobody was injured. The incident delayed three outgoing international flights and one domestic flight, he said.

U.S. cool to Cairo statement

WASHINGTON (R) — The State Department has reacted coolly to Tuesday's statement by Egypt and Jordan calling for a United Nations-sponsored Middle East peace conference. Spokesman Alan Romberg, questioned about the communique issued following talks in Cairo between President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein, said: "We do not believe such an international conference would lead to productive results." The United States and Israel have both consistently opposed an international conference on the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Crippled tanker under tow to Dubai

BAHRAIN (R) — A Cypriot supertanker, crippled on Monday by a missile attack in which three Taiwanese crewmen died, was Wednesday being towed south towards the United Arab Emirates port of Dubai, shipping sources said. They said two tugs were towing the 392,543 deadweight tonnage ship, probably the largest ship hit so far in the four-year war between Iran and Iraq, here there is a big ship repair yard. They said towing was difficult because of the ship's size.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية اردنية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي

Greece charges attempted assassin

ATHENS (R) — A young Arab whom police believe tried to kill a Jordanian diplomat here last week was charged Wednesday with attempted murder and illegally using and possessing firearms. A gunman tried to shoot the second-ranking diplomat at the Jordanian embassy in Athens on Nov. 29 as the diplomat was driving home with his two children. The would-be assassin fled on a motorcycle after his gun jammed. The man charged Wednesday was arrested at the Greek-Yugoslav border on Nov. 30. He was carrying the Moroccan passport — naming him as Amar Mabruk — that was used to hire the motorcycle for the assassination attempt. Legal sources said he denied the charges at a closed-door session with a state prosecutor. The accused man will be questioned by a magistrate, who will decide whether or not to jail him pending trial.

Hijackers demand release of convicted saboteurs in Kuwait

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Hijackers holding some 80 hostages aboard a Kuwaiti Airbus at Tehran's Mehrabad airport said Wednesday they had planted explosives in the plane and asked for a meeting with Kuwait's prime minister, the Iranian national news agency IRNA said.

The news agency also said Iranian forces blocked the runway to prevent the Kuwaiti Airways plane from taking off.

It said the hijackers had told the authorities the plane, wired up with explosives, was ready to take off. The hijackers left the plane to check its light and wheels, and the sound of the engines starting was also heard, the agency said.

But security forces blocked the runway with vehicles and other obstacles, it said.

The Arabic-speaking hijackers, who Tuesday shot dead a hostage believed to be a U.S. diplomat, have threatened to blow up the plane and demanded the release of prisoners in Kuwait.

IRNA did not elaborate on the hijackers' demands. But the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Watan said they are demanding the release of 14 prisoners from Kuwait. Three of these have been sentenced to death and the rest are serving varying terms of imprisonment for their part in the suicide truck-bomb attack against the U.S. embassy and French consulate in Kuwait on Dec. 12, 1983.

and other relief teams were on the alert.

The agency said the Kuwaiti government had announced that it would not accept any conditions for release of the hostages. When told of the Kuwaiti position, the hijackers called for a meeting with the Kuwaiti prime minister and their apparent, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, it added.

The hijackers, believed to number five, took over the plane 45 minutes after it left Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

After it landed in Tehran, shots were heard inside and a body was dumped out of the plane, then fired at again as it lay on the tarmac. IRNA said the dead man was believed to be an American diplomat, but he has not yet been identified.

Another man wounded in the face in the incident, who was believed to be a Kuwaiti security agent, was among the hostages freed earlier, it said.

The agency said a doctor was allowed aboard the plane earlier to treat one of three Kuwaiti passengers reported suffering from heart problems.

The hijackers said they would release the sick man only if they were replaced by Kuwait's charge d'affaires in Tehran, Kazem Ma'arefi, it added.

At least two Britons, including Pilot Harry Clark, were believed to be among those still held hos-

tage, and diplomatic sources in Kuwait said three Kuwaiti diplomats were also thought to be aboard.

On Tuesday, a crew member on an incoming Iranian flight told Reuters he had overheard the hijackers telling control tower officials in Arabic: "We are against the British. As long as there is a Briton on board we will not hurt the others."

A caller claiming to belong to the "September 17th Organisation," told an international news agency in Beirut that his group was responsible for the hijacking of the Kuwaiti Airbus.

Iran has recently also shown concern over what it sees as the possibility of Kuwait leasing temporarily three of its islands in the north of the Gulf to Iraq.

It has expressed concern that Iraq, with which it has been at war for four years, could make military use of the islands.

In the last four months two other hijacked planes have landed in Tehran — an Air France Boeing last July in which the hijackers blew up the flight deck after releasing the hostages and a Saudi plane last month when the hijackers were overpowered by passengers.

In Kuwait, an official statement said the Kuwait cabinet was in constant session and was in contact with the Iranian authorities in its efforts to end the hijack drama.

Arafat briefs Aziz on outcome of PNC session

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz held talks here Wednesday on the outcome of last month's Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Amman, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

It said Mr. Aziz, who is also foreign minister, had reiterated Iraq's unwavering support for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and for the PLO's struggle for their rights.

The two men hailed the PNC meeting as proof of "the vitality of the Palestinian movement and its legitimate bodies and their ability to foil the suspected conspiracies against the Palestinian people's unity and its independent will," the agency said.

The PNC meeting, which elected a new PLO Executive Committee under Mr. Arafat, was not attended by five Damascus-based PLO factions.

The agency said Mr. Arafat and Mr. Aziz also discussed Iraq's war with Iran, now in its fifth year. Mr. Arafat has in the past sought to mediate an end to the conflict, in his role as a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) good offices committee.

But the approaches, as well as initiatives from other international bodies, have been rejected.

They said the delay was to allow for more discussion to remove objections to certain details of the army plan raised by Walid Junblatt's mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia. The deployment was to have begun Thursday.

All parties have agreed in principle to the Syrian-backed plan, under which the army is to deploy south to the Awali River, the northern "front line" of Israeli troops occupying South Lebanon. It is designed to halt factional fighting in the tense Iqlim Al Kharroub region north of the Awali line and prepare for an army takeover of South Lebanon.

The PSP, whose forces confront mostly Christian right-wing militias entrenched in a small enclave in the Kharroub, is asking for changes in the plan to keep the army away from PSP-held areas deep in the Kharroub and the adjacent Shouf mountains, PSP sources said.

They said the PSP agreed to the army deploying on the east road and inland to stop factional clashes. The dispute was over "technical details with political ramifications," one source said.

A revised plan agreed by Mr. Junblatt, Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri and Sunni Muslim politician Selim Hoss at a meeting on Sunday had been referred to President Amin Gemayel and the army's six-officer military council, the sources said.

The proposals were also submitted to Syria, which is playing a key role in mediating between Lebanon's rival leaders. There have been no reports of heavy fighting in the Kharroub for two days, after several days of artillery duels.

The PSP, which rightist leaders

Israel must withdraw unconditionally — Karami

BEIRUT (Agencies) Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Wednesday Lebanon would stick to its demands for an unconditional Israeli troop withdrawal from South Lebanon and appealed for Lebanese unity to achieve this goal.

Mr. Karami, at celebrations marking the Prophet Mohammad's birthday, said: "We agree to Israel staying (in South Lebanon) for a month or two, a year or two, but we will never sign an accord turning our country into a hostage."

Addressing a large crowd including politicians, religious figures and diplomats, he said Lebanon would continue negotiations with Israel "until we ensure the unconditional evacuation of the enemy from our sacred land."

He accused Israel of trying to blackmail the Lebanese negotiation in bilateral withdrawal talks and of trying to turn international public opinion against Lebanon.

The talks, so far stalemated over who will control South Lebanon after an estimated 12,000 Israeli troops leave, move into an eighth round Thursday at U.N. forces headquarters in the southern Lebanese village of Naqoura.

Israel wants the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to control security in a northern sector of the occupied territory with an Israeli-backed militia pat-

ban on Tripoli residents using the main coast road between Beirut and Tripoli, right-wing Falangist radio said.

The "Lebanese Forces" imposed the ban last Wednesday in reprisal for the hostage-taking. The release of the civilians, who included 15 Lebanese army soldiers, and the reopening of the road followed an agreement reached by *Tawheed* and the "Lebanese Forces" Tuesday at the Defence Ministry in Beirut, the radio said.

Tawheed has said the hostages were seized by relatives of 27 Tripoli Muslims kidnapped by the "Lebanese Forces" at their Bara checkpoint on the coast road.

It was not immediately clear if the rightist militia had freed any hostages as part of the deal. The Bara checkpoint is due to be dismantled during the next stage of plans to deploy the army on the coast road north and south of Beirut.

In return, the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia lifted a



Government officials and family members of Azmi Al Mufli, the assassinated Jordanian embassy counsellor in Bucharest, Wednesday receive the body of the diplomat at Amman airport (Petra photo)

Assassinated diplomat's body arrives in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Azmi Al Mufli, the Jordanian embassy counsellor who was assassinated in Bucharest, Romania, on Tuesday, arrived in Amman Wednesday for burial Thursday.

The body was received at the airport by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid — deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan — Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayez, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, cabinet members, parliament members, senior civil and military officials, and family members of the assassinated diplomat, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

It said the body was taken to Al Hussein Medical Centre where it will be kept until Thursday when it will be buried after funeral services.

In Bucharest, the Romanian news agency, Agereps, said the assassin of the counsellor, a mentally deranged student holding a Jordanian passport, was arrested immediately after the attack near Hotel Bucharest, where the diplomat has been staying ever since he took up his post earlier this year.

Mr. Karami called on all Lebanese to unite behind attempts to liberate Israeli-occupied territory in Lebanon, saying: "How can we liberate our land if we do not first liberate ourselves, our hearts and minds... how can we score victory against the enemy as long as we are enemies to one another?"

Accusing Israel of plotting to make its presence in South Lebanon permanent, Mr. Karami said: "How can we feel proud as long as our country is under occupation and the enemy tries to leave from the door only to return from the window?"

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was expected to arrive in the Middle East this week to help Israel and Lebanon to reach an accord over the issue of ending the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

It was not clear whether Mr. Murphy will attend the Naqoura talks or launch a shuttle in the region, visiting Lebanon, Israel and Syria. Syria has tacitly approved the talks "as long as they are limited to military matters" and not related to any issue which infringes on Lebanon's sovereignty

Mr. Mufli was shot in the car park near the hotel where he was staying with his family, Agereps said. "The killer was identified and apprehended straight away," it reported.

It named him as 27-year-old Ahmad Mohammad Ali Hersh, born in Salifu-Nabius on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

He studied at the Bucharest Institute of Construction and "is known among the Arab students as a disbalanced person," Agereps said, adding that he held a Jordanian passport issued by the Jordanian embassy in Bucharest.

It said the authorities were continuing to investigate the killing. Security in Bucharest, where the communist authorities impose strict surveillance, is always tight. The hotel is in a specially well-patrolled area, close to state buildings.

The representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Bucharest, Izzat Abu Al Rub, Wednesday condemned the assassination describing it as an "immoral act, contravening with the simplest rules of political dealing."

In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Abu Al Rub, said the

assassin has no relation whatsoever with the PLO because his "criminal act is contravening with the Palestinian national struggle particularly that his act led to the death of a friend of the Palestinian people and the PLO."

At the United Nations, the president of the General Assembly has condemned the assassination and said terrorism was a threat to international cooperation.

"The killing of Azmi Al Mufli should be condemned by everyone who has faith in the value of human life," Paul Lusaka said in a statement.

In a reference to the killing last week of the British deputy high commissioner to India, Mr. Lusaka said it was distressing that two diplomats had been assassinated within a week.

"Another reason why terrorist acts against diplomats must be condemned is that diplomats and diplomatic contacts facilitate international cooperation," he said.

"These acts diminish such cooperation and friendly relations among states," Mr. Lusaka said. He urged governments to step up the search for more effective measures against terrorism.

King condoles Mufli family, page 3

Zairean president sworn in for third term

KINSHASA (R) — Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko was sworn in to a third term of office Wednesday to acclaim by thousands of dancing, drum-beating supporters.

Mr. Mobutu, 53, swore to uphold the constitution and to maintain the vast and potentially wealthy nation's territorial integrity during his seven-year term which extends his tight rule to 1991.

Almost a dozen leaders from neighbouring countries, government representatives from Europe and the United States and hundreds of officials of the ruling People's Revolutionary Movement (MRP) attended.

Outside the Chinese-built People's Palace where the ceremony took place, thousands of drum-beating Zaireans wearing tee-shirts with Mr. Mobutu's picture danced to party slogans glorifying "Zaire's father founder."

Mr. Mobutu came to power in a 1965 coup, legitimised his rule in a presidential poll five years later, was reelected in 1977 and again last July, standing unopposed all three times.

African leaders present at the ceremony included Presidents Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, whose relations with Zaire have fluctuated.

Mr. Mobutu acknowledged in his inauguration address that problems existed with his two neighbours but stressed that they could be overcome.

Mr. Mobutu has accused the two of being involved in attempts in 1977 and 1978 to invade the mineral-rich southern Shaba province which provides the former Belgian colony with the bulk of its export revenues and has long nurtured secessionist feelings.

A third attempt took place last month when rebels seized a small town on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, which serves as a natural border between Zaire and Tanzania.

Jordan urges U.N. to deter Israel from canal project

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, has called on the international community to deter Israel from implementing a planned project to link the Mediterranean with the Dead Sea because such a project "will have adverse consequences on Jordan's vital strategic, political and economic interests."

The Jordanian envoy, addressing a U.N. political committee convened to discuss the Israeli plan, was described the planned project as "a continuation of Israel's policy of seizing Arab waters since 1954."

"The plan aims at controlling all Arab water resources inside and outside the occupied territories," Mr. Salah said.

Mr. Salah said that Israel has begun digging a tunnel near the Dead Sea claiming that it was only part of a study on rocks in the region and implementation of a scientific research project.

"The Israeli government has in fact allocated \$24 million for the tunnel at a time when it is facing a choking financial and economic crisis, and this reflects that government's determination to go ahead with plans to build the projected canal," Mr. Salah added.

The envoy said Israel has continuously disregarded U.N. resolutions and refused to apply international laws and agreements in all matters connected with the occupied Arab territories and has based all its programmes on military occupation and expansion at the expense of its neighbours and their economic and social and political interests.

Mr. Salah said Jordan will submit a draft resolution to the committee calling on the United Nations to prevent Israel from carrying out its aggressive plan.

King condoles Mufli family, page 3

Soviets 'ready for radical solutions' to weapons race

MOSCOW (R) — President Konstantin Chernenko said Wednesday the Soviet Union was prepared to adopt radical solutions to the arms race and its top priority was a space weapons ban.

In a message to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, published Wednesday, he said the Soviet Union hoped to reach understandings in its forthcoming talks with the United States.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko is due to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Geneva next month to discuss the resumption of arms control talks between the two countries.

"Resolving the question of space weapons is now of primary importance," Mr. Chernenko said.

387 Soviet SS-20s deployed in East Europe, U.S. says, page 8

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EC summit calls for new M.E. peace efforts

DUBLIN (R) — The European Community has urged a new peace effort in the Middle East but its call fell short of a fresh regional initiative by leaders of the 10-nation bloc.

In a statement at the close of the two-day Dublin summit, the Western European leaders reaffirmed their belief that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be involved in peace negotiations.

Summit diplomats said Monday that the government leaders planned to ask Italy, community president for six months from Jan. 1, to renew contacts in the region with a view to promoting new peace efforts.

But they acknowledged that some countries, in particular France and West Germany, were eager to avoid launching a formal initiative the Community did not have the power to back up.

These misgivings appeared to be reflected in the statement, which did not spell out what practical role the Community might play in the peace process or whether the Italian diplomatic round

would go ahead.

Following is the full text of a statement on the Arab-Israeli conflict from European Community leaders meeting in Dublin:

"The 10 regard it as vitally important that renewed efforts should be made towards negotiations for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. They note with satisfaction expressions of interest of both sides in a process of movement towards negotiations and they hope that this declared interest will be further built on.

"They remain convinced that a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can only be secured on the basis of the principles which they have stated many times in the past and to which the 10 continue to adhere.

"In order to find a lasting solution, no amount of effort by third parties can be a substitute for direct negotiations among the parties

themselves — the Arab states, Israel and the Palestinian people — which must recognise mutually each others' existence and rights.

"They call on all parties fully to implement the provisions of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They renew their call for an end to the illegal policy of settlements in the occupied territories.

"The 10 have noted the recent holding of the Palestine National Council in Amman. They continue to believe that the PLO must be associated with peace negotiations.

"The 10 have consistently offered to assist in any way open to them in attempts to identify common ground between the parties. The 10 both collectively and individually have maintained contact with all parties.

"In continuation of this policy, the European Council considers that such contacts should be developed with a view to seeking ways of promoting movement towards negotiation and improvement of the situation in the region.

Anglicans 'rebuffed' Palestinian bishop

LONDON (R) — Bishop Eliya Khouri, an Anglican member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said church leaders in Britain rebuffed him when he tried to enlist support for talks between the Palestinians and Israel.

Bishop Khouri, elected to the PLO Executive Committee last week, said Dr. Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, and other Anglican leaders responded coolly to his approaches.

Dr. Runcie's office said a busy schedule prevented the archbishop, spiritual head of the world's Anglicans, from meeting Bishop Khouri.

Bishop Khouri said he and two priests from Iraq had come to London to explain the idea "of an international conference in which the two superpowers, Israel and the PLO will come together on an equal basis for negotiations

about a peaceful settlement."

He attributed the cool response from church leaders to the influence of what he called the Zionist lobby in Britain.

Bishop Khouri said he had hoped to tell Anglican leaders there were many Christian Palestinians who, like their Muslim compatriots, hoped to have a homeland.

Iranian foreign minister visits Hungary

BUDAPEST (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Wednesday to confer with Hungarian officials on boosting economic cooperation and trade and to discuss international issues.

Budapest Radio said Mr. Velayati was met by Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi.

The government daily newspaper Magyar Hirlap said Iran

had become one of Hungary's most important trading partners in the developing world following the takeover by the Islamic leadership in 1979.

No detailed breakdown by commodity is generally given, but Western diplomats said Budapest augmented its oil supplies, the bulk of which come from the Soviet Union, by deliveries from Iran and Libya.

Magyar Hirlap said the situation created by the Islamic Revolution favoured increased ties between the two countries, and said Budapest had welcomed the "anti-imperialist manifestations of the new order."

It was not announced how long Mr. Velayati, who also visited Hungary's East Bloc ally Bulgaria in May, would stay.



KING, QUEEN LEAVE FOR BRITAIN: Her Majesty Queen Noor, who accompanied His Majesty King Hussein on a private visit to Britain which began Wednesday, bids farewell to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan before departure (Petra photo)

Israel condemned for not renouncing nuclear arms

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Israel have cast the only votes against a resolution at the United Nations condemning Israel's refusal to renounce and possession of nuclear weapons.

The vote Tuesday was 85 to two, with 36 abstentions. The draft was the last of 63 disarmament-related resolutions to be acted on by the General Assembly's main political committee at its current 13-week session.

It also condemns Israel's continued refusal to implement a 1981 Security Council resolution calling on it to place its nuclear facilities under safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Security Council action followed Israel's bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Another paragraph, approved in a separate vote by 73 to 23 with 18 abstentions, asks the Security Council to investigate Israel's nuclear activities.

The resolution repeats previous requests to the IAEA to suspend any scientific cooperation with Israel that could contribute to its nuclear capabilities.

Israeli premier arrives for 3-day visit to France

PARIS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres arrived here Wednesday for three days of talks with French leaders on ways of breaking the deadlock in the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Peres, the first Israeli head of government to be officially received in Paris for 20 years, was accorded full military honours on his arrival at Orly Airport on a scheduled El Al flight.

He was welcomed by French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius, with whom he was expected to have a first round of talks later Wednesday.

Mr. Peres, the first Israeli head of government to be officially received in Paris for 20 years, is expected to seek European and in particular French assistance in promoting direct peace talks with Arab states.

His three-day visit marks the latest stage of a personal initiative by French President Francois Mitterrand, who has been touring Arab capitals in an effort to find a compromise approach to a settlement.

It coincides with demands in the Arab World for a conference under United Nations auspices, grouping all parties to the conflict. Israel has rejected the idea, which would involve negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and insists that direct talks with individual

Arab states is the most realistic path to peace.

Mr. Peres reiterated this view in a French television interview broadcast Tuesday, saying the missing element in the peace process was a negotiating partner.

"The partners are well known — the Jordanians, the Egyptians, the Syrians, the Lebanese. One has to approach the different sides and open a direct dialogue, and I think France can play a role in this rapprochement," he said.

Judging by their past statements, the French and Israeli Socialist leaders appear to share the view that the solution lies in the region itself.

During his visits to Jordan, Egypt and Syria, Mr. Mitterrand expressed only qualified support for a wide-based conference, saying initial peace moves should come from the parties directly concerned.

Diplomatic sources said the French president appeared well-placed to promote an informal deal between Israel and Syria to facilitate an Israeli military withdrawal from Lebanon.

On wider West European involvement, regarded by Israel for years as pro-Arab, Mr. Peres recently told a Knesset committee that Israel should adopt a positive approach to the European Community and urge it to play a constructive role in the Middle East.

Iraq ready to receive U.N. PoWs committee

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Wednesday told U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar it was ready to be the first party in the Iran-Iraq war to receive a U.N. fact-finding committee on the treatment of prisoners of war.

"The Iraqi government does not object that Iraq becomes the first station for the U.N. committee's visit, provided that the committee starts its work in Iran with investigating Iran's Gorgan Camp killings," Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said in a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar read over Baghdad Radio.

Previously Iraq has said the committee must go to Iran first.

The Gorgan Camp in northern Iran was the scene of clashes in October in which six Iraqi prisoners died.

Mr. Aziz said Iran had foiled all efforts by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit the Iraqi prisoners. "The reform effective measures should be taken to protect the Iraqi PoWs in Iran," the letter added.

The ICRC, in a recent appeal to world bodies, said 50,000 Iraqi PoWs in Iran were under "grave threat." It urged them to respect the Geneva conventions on the treatment of war prisoners.

Shamir: Jordan must cut links with PLO

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told parliament Wednesday that Jordan must end its partnership with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) if it wants peace with Israel.

Mr. Shamir said Jordan also must abandon what he called its "dangerous illusions" that Israel will relinquish the occupied West Bank and return to its previous boundaries.

Mr. Shamir was speaking at the end of a parliamentary debate on recent developments in the Arab World that could affect the prospects for an Arab-Israeli settlement: The emerging alliance between Jordan, Egypt and the PLO, and the resumption of U.S.-Iraqi relations.

But Mr. Shamir's speech amounted to a strong denunciation of the PLO, which he called the main obstacle to a Mideast peace settlement.

Mr. Shamir said any discussion of the PLO or the decisions of the recent meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Amman "is beneath the dignity of this house."

He said "the PLO is not a subject for debate because it is an expression of the opposite of peace. Jordan and Egypt must decide: Either support for the PLO or peace. The two cannot go together."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres, in a speech Monday opening the debate, rejected the joint Egyptian-Jordanian call for an international peace conference on the Middle East, charging that it would be automatically weighted against Israel.

Mr. Peres reiterated Israel's invitation to Jordan to immediately begin direct negotiations and said Israel also would talk with Palestinian representatives who were not PLO members.

Malta approves treaty with Libya, ends treaty with Italy

VALLETTA (R) — Malta's parliament approved a friendship and cooperation treaty with Libya Tuesday night, as Prime Minister Dom Mintoff announced that a neutrality agreement with Italy had ended.

The treaty with Libya, approved by 33 votes to 30 with the opposition Nationalist Party voting against, pledges Libyan military support if the Mediterranean

island is threatened. Malta would not allow foreign military bases on its territory and both countries are required under the treaty not to join any military alliance that would endanger the security of the other.

Nationalist Party leader Edward Fenech Adami said in the parliamentary debate that the treaty meant abandonment of Malta's neutrality and non-alignment.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:10 Children's Programmes
18:00 Children's Programmes
18:30 Children's Programmes
19:00 Programme Review
19:40 Week's Event
19:55 News Summary
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local Competition Programme
21:45 Arabic Play
22:00 News in Arabic
22:10 Arabic Play Continued
24:00 Religious Programme

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in French
20:30 The Hello Goodbye Man
21:30 Charlie
22:00 News in English
22:15 Film

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.60 KHz, SW
07:30 Light Music
08:00 News
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
10:00 Morning Show
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Pop Session
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 News Bulletin
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Just A Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Instrumentals
17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 Special Feature
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Pop Session
19:00 News Bulletin
19:30 Good Old Days
20:00 Music
20:30 News Bulletin
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show
23:00 News Summary
24:00 Close Down

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

18:00 Koran
18:30 Scooby and Scrappy Doo
19:00 Children's Programmes
19:30 Friday's Prayer
20:00 Documentary
20:30 Soccer
21:00 Knight Rider
21:30 Arabie Programme
22:00 Maropolo
22:30 News in Arabic
23:00 Local Programme
24:00 Arabic Series

BBC WORLD SERVICE

06:00 Newswatch 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Peckles' Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 News Summary 08:15 News Summary 08:30 The Farming World 09:00 World News 09:30 24 Hours: News Summary 09:45 News Summary 09:55 News Summary 10:00 World News 10:15 News Summary 10:30 World News 10:45 News Summary 10:55 News Summary 11:00 World News 11:15 News Summary 11:30 World News 11:45 News Summary 11:55 News Summary 12:00 World News 12:15 News Summary 12:30 World News 12:45 News Summary 12:55 News Summary 13:00 World News 13:15 News Summary 13:30 World News 13:45 News Summary 13:55 News Summary 14:00 World News 14:15 News Summary 14:30 World News 14:45 News Summary 14:55 News Summary 15:00 World News 15:15 News Summary 15:30 World News 15:45 News Summary 15:55 News Summary 16:00 World News 16:15 News Summary 16:30 World News 16:45 News Summary 16:55 News Summary 17:00 World News 17:15 News Summary 17:30 World 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King condoles Mufti family, condemns assassination of counsellor as 'cowardly act'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday evening visited the residence of former Prime Minister Sa'ad Al Mufti, father of the assassinated Jordanian embassy counsellor in Romania Azmi Al Mufti, and offered his condolences to the family.

King Hussein voiced his strong condemnation of this cowardly and immoral act which he said can only serve the enemies of the Arab nation and those conspiring against it. The King was accompanied by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Condemnation of the assassination also came from United Nations General Assembly President Paul Lusaka. He said that terrorism constitutes a grave danger to international cooperation and added that the assassination of Azmi Al Mufti should be condemned by all believers in humanity.

In Doha, Qatar, the local daily Al Raia said in an editorial that the assassination of Azmi Al Mufti marks a new danger in the Arab political and diplomatic scenes. The paper called for all possible precautionary measures to be taken to ensure the safety of Arab diplomats abroad. The paper charged that only weak and defeatist peoples resort to crimes because they lack the power to prove their stands.

Rawabdeh briefs Tunisian team, Rotary Club on Amman projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The mayor of the Tunisian town of Hammamet conferred here Wednesday with Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh.

The Tunisian mayor, who was accompanied by governor of the Tunisian town of Nabel, Mr. Basir Al Hamidi, listened to a briefing by Mr. Rawabdeh on the development of the city of Amman and its services and programmes. Mr. Hamidi praised the municipality of Amman and the Jordanian government for their efforts to develop Amman and other Jordanian cities.

Mr. Rawabdeh accompanied the Tunisian guests on a tour of Amman where they inspected projects being implemented by the municipality.

Mr. Rawabdeh earlier spoke about the municipality's programmes for opening roads and building interchanges to ease traffic congestion in Amman during a seminar organised by the Rotary Club at the Intercontinental Hotel.

Mr. Rawabdeh spoke about the municipality's comprehensive plan from now until the year 2005 concerning the purposes of using land in the Amman area. The municipality issues 100,000 fines for violators every year, 20,000 of which are for violations in building operations, the mayor said.

Mr. Rawabdeh spoke of the municipality's plans to establish public parks and to collect and dispose of garbage.

American women to hold bazaar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American women of Amman will hold a Christmas charity bazaar on Friday Dec. 7 at the American Community School, near the Seventh Circle in Jabal Amman.

The bazaar will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be inaugurated by wife of the United States ambassador to Jordan, Mrs. Margaret Becker. Activities will include games for children, sale of home-made cakes and biscuits and a raffle for two round trip tickets to Geneva. All proceeds will be donated to local charitable organisations.

Family planning: More of a social than demographic issue

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Overpopulation in Jordan is not yet a matter of concern as it seems to be in other countries, even though the birthrate is increasing. Family planning is not as yet a government priority, nor is there any official population policy.

However, lack of health education, poor economic conditions and closely spaced pregnancies all take their toll on the health of mothers and the general standards of families, so family planning has come to be more of a social concern than a demographic one.

It is on this basis that the Jordan Family Planning and Protection Association (JFPPA) was founded, first in the West Bank in 1964 and then in the East Bank of Jordan in 1972. Presently, it has five clinics in the East Bank, two in Amman, one in Salt, one in Irbid and one in Zarqa. A clinic in Aqaba is also to be opened in the near future.

Each clinic's staff consists of a physician, a nurse, a social worker, a clerk and a maintenance man or woman. Social workers are needed to give accurate information to the patients about family planning and contraceptives, through lectures, films, pictures and other educational methods. Physicians, all of them female, examine the patients to determine whether a contraceptive is suitable at the

time, and which kind should be prescribed. In case of infection or other problems, the physician will diagnose the condition and give a prescription.

The most common contraceptives used in the clinics are the pill, the IUD (Intra-uterine device) and condoms which are usually given when a medical condition requires postponement of other contraceptives. The JFPPA is strongly opposed to abortion which, by law, is permitted only for medical purposes, not gives sterilization, tubal occlusion or injections.

Contraceptives

The IUD seems to be the most popular contraceptive with the clinics' patients. Pills can be forgotten and, over a long period of time, often produce unpleasant side effects. Physicians at the clinics tend to prescribe pills for younger women (under 30), or in case of infection. The IUD is normally used if a more permanent contraceptive is required. The decision, ultimately, is up to the physician.

While the clinics' staff are paid by the association, the administrative staff works purely on voluntary basis. "We are interested in a comprehensive development of the country," says Dr. Salem Kerwane, President of the JFPPA. "Our main goal is to reach a balance in the income and the size of families, and we are also



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday addresses a celebration at the Palace of Culture to mark the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birthday (Petra photo).

Irbid police crack down on crime

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Irbid Criminal Police Department, under the supervision of Lieutenant Mazen Oadi, have apprehended several members of a gang of thieves who committed crimes including breaking and entry, pick-pocketing, burglary, handbag snatching and stealing from shops in Irbid.

Colonel Abdul Rahman Adwan told reporters that three thieves, who were apprehended on Nov. 29 in Irbid, confessed after police investigations that they stole from six grocery stores in Irbid during breaking the locks of these stores. Col. Adwan identified the three thieves as Hussein Mahmoud, aged 22, M.S. 15, and Z.A., 17. Col. Adwan said that on Nov. 28, an Egyptian national notified the police that his motorcycle had been stolen after he entered a photocopying store. The thief was arrested a few hours afterwards. The thief, identified as Ahmad Hassan, confessed his crime.

Handbag snatchers

On Nov. 24, Ali Fahd, aged 22, was arrested and put under investigation by the police after which he confessed to snatching women's handbags in Irbid streets. He confessed to stealing a handbag from a woman in Hadadin market, another from a

woman in Nijadich market and a third in Mutanabi Street. Each of the three handbags stolen contained approximately JD 25. Col. Adwan said. He said that the same person confessed to stealing a cheque book, a bank book, and pens from a house in the town of Mazra.

On Nov. 22, police arrested Raed Ali who was trying to illegally enter a house of an Irbid citizen. After investigations, he confessed to committing a number of similar felonies in Irbid in collaboration with Nabil Abdullah, 19, Rifa'at Mohammad, 25, Mohammad Ibrahim, 21, Mahmoud Salim, 20, Mahmoud Muslim, 20 and M.A., 17 who were all apprehended and who later confessed to committing nine felonies.

The gang used copies of original keys or alternate keys to enter houses and stores. They confessed to stealing tape recorders, perfume bottles, cash, jewelry items and gold, a colour television set and other items. Two of the thieves confessed snatching two gold bracelets from two girls walking in an Irbid street.

Also on Nov. 22, Ahmad Fuad, 40, informed the police that when he left his store for few seconds to talk to one of his neighbours, he returned to find that the drawer where he kept his money was open and empty. He had JD 40 stolen

from the drawer. Col. Adwan said that M. Alhafiz, aged 26, confessed the theft.

House fixtures

On Nov. 15 Khaled Yussef was arrested and confessed to having committed several felonies one of which was removing two aluminium windows and a steel door from a house before running away with part of the house fixtures. He sold some of them to Yussef Muhammad for JD 70 and the rest were sold to Radi Jamil for JD 50, he said.

On Nov. 17 Mahmoud Mohammad was arrested as a suspect for these felonies, said Col. Adwan. When investigated he confessed to committing four robberies, three of which were money stolen from houses and the fourth was stealing a recorder and a pair of shoes.

In addition, Irbid inhabitant Khaled Assad was arrested for his previous bad attitude and when investigated he confessed to committing several robberies in Irbid and to Amman.

At the end of his statement Col. Adwan emphasised that the Criminal Police are available at any time for the comfort of the citizen, and he added that the department had discovered 90 per cent of the crime culprits.

Jordan marks Prophet Mohammad's birthday

Hassan calls on Arabs, Muslims to end divisions

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday called on Arab and Muslim nations to transcend their differences, to end their divisions and to be benefit from the teachings of Islam which advocated justice, equality, tolerance and cooperation.

Prince Hassan was addressing a ceremony held at the Palace of Culture to mark the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday. Prince Hassan said that the recent years brought to the Arabs serious events causing the Arab World to be torn apart by divisions, differences and weakness but, he added, all Arabs have to realise that they form a target of their common enemy and that they are all in the same boat. Therefore, he said, they should re-establish their solidarity and unify their ranks to repel aggression.

Jordan, in keeping with the teachings of Islam, has been keen on unifying Arab and Muslim ranks and preserving close cooperation among brothers, he said. It is for preserving Arab solidarity and unifying these ranks that Jordan restored relations with Egypt, Prince Hassan said. Severing relations with Egypt seven years ago was designed to serve certain objectives at the time, but cutting off relations should not be a permanent practice among brothers, Prince Hassan added.

Palestinian struggle

Out of the same principles and beliefs, Jordan hosted the Palestine National Council session in Amman to further underline the special relationship binding the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples

and in support of the legitimate Palestinian leadership. Prince Hassan pointed out. He said that co-opting the council's session here was a victory for the Palestinian legitimacy that has bolstered the steadfastness of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories and also foiled the conspiracies being hatched by the enemies of the Arab people.

Jordan continues to support the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their rights, and for this reason His Majesty King Hussein offered his proposals for joint action to reach a formula that can win the support of the Arab countries and backing from the international community, Prince Hassan said.

Gulf war

He said that, guided by the teachings of Islam, Jordan has supported all efforts aimed at ending the Gulf conflict, and also has issued appeals for various international organisations to save the lives of the Iraqi prisoners of war now exposed to inhuman Iranian treatment and who are now facing torture and death in Iran's violation of all human principles and international laws.

Among the speakers at the ceremony were Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Daoudieh and Chief Islamic Jus-

tice Sheikh Mohammad Mhailan who called on Muslims and Arabs to learn the meanings of Islam and to apply Islamic principles in all their dealings with others.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayed, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, cabinet members, senior officials and high-ranking army officers, as well as ambassadors of Arab and Islamic countries in Jordan.

On the occasion of the Prophet's birthday, government departments and public institutions were closed and new stamps marking the occasion were issued by the Ministry of Communications.

Congratulatory cables

On this occasion King Hussein received congratulatory cables from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hassan II of Morocco, congratulating him on this great Islamic occasion and hoping that it will mark the start of a new stage in the life of the Arab and Muslim peoples.

King Hussein also received congratulatory cables from Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akef Al Fayed, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, director generals of the Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence Departments and chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

PLO committee member praises joint Egyptian-Jordanian political moves

By Hamadeh Al Fara'neh
Special to the Jordan Times

CAIRO — A member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) executive committee Jamal Al Sourani has praised the Jordanian-Egyptian joint communiqué that followed His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Egypt and said that he considered it as "a constructive step on the path of bolstering the Palestinian political front."

The communiqué was a clear endorsement of the Palestinian people's rights and those of the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Mr. Sourani said. "He said in a statement issued here Tuesday that this communiqué reflects Egyptian government's departure from its earlier declared policies as defined in the Camp David agreement concerning the Palestine problem. What was stated in the communiqué was total contradiction of what that agreement provided for, he said.

Mr. Sourani said that the Egyptian president's speech to parliament in Cairo reaffirms Egypt's determination to adopt a course different from that drawn up in the Camp David agreement and this could not have come about had there not been prior readiness on the part of the Egyptian people to reject normalisation of relations with Israel and the results of the Camp David agreement.

This readiness was bound to happen because the Camp David agreement isolated Egypt from the rest of the Arab World, Mr. Sourani added.

The PLO regards this development in Egyptian politics as a direct result of contacts with its leadership conducted by Jordanian and PLO leaders, with King Hussein's visit to Egypt coming as a climax to these contacts, Mr. Sourani said.

He added: This visit and these contacts should now encourage the new Egyptian trend to break away completely and for ever from the U.S.-backed Camp David accord so that Egypt can once again regain its previous status and return to the Arab fold.

Commenting on the joint communiqué, former mayor of the West Bank town of Halhoul Mohammad Milhem said that the Egyptian leadership has now joined the national Egyptian movement and the masses in rejecting Camp David.

The communiqué was of great importance because it projected official rejection of the Camp David accord, an unprecedented move by the Egyptian government and a very encouraging sign for the Arabs, Mr. Milhem said. He added that the visit to Cairo by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the restoration of Jordanian-Egyptian relations were instrumental in bringing about this very important change of policy.

The communiqué should now encourage other Arab states to follow Jordan's example so that the Camp David accords can be killed for ever, he said.

UNRWA officials, Mahmoud discuss camp services, agency's budget deficit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has informed the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) that the government does not agree to any reductions in the services provided by UNRWA to the Palestine refugees, but that it aspires to see that such services are increased, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud said Tuesday.

In a statement to Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper following a meeting between Mr. Mahmoud and UNRWA Deputy Commissioner General Robert Dillon in the presence of Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist and Assistant Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Osama Tabhou, Mr. Mahmoud said that the agency's financial situation and its 1985 budget were discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Mahmoud added that means and methods which the agency should follow to cover the \$50 million budget deficit were also discussed. Speaking about the meeting, Mr. Mahmoud said: "An atmosphere of understanding and openness prevailed during the meeting and a keen interest to exert every possible effort to cover the expected financial deficit for the agency's 1985 budget was observed."

Speaking about the means for covering the financial deficit of the international organisation's deficit, Mr. Mahmoud said that it has been agreed that UNRWA, the Jordanian government and a special committee representing UNRWA's Advisory Committee launch a campaign for contacting contributing countries with a view

to convincing them to increase their contributions to UNRWA. It was also agreed to contact other non-contributing states to convince them to contribute to the agency in order to enable it to continue reordering its services to the Palestine refugees, added Mr. Mahmoud.

Mr. Mahmoud expressed the hope that such efforts and contacts would come up with positive results. In view of the increasing expenses necessary for the provision of services and in view of the rise

in the staff remuneration next year which will cost the agency \$21 million, the agency might resort to effecting a curtailment in expenses and services if the deficit is not settled, Al Dostour said.

Among the other subjects of discussion during the meeting was the relocation of UNRWA headquarters from Vienna to Amman, a subject which will be discussed with Mr. Hallqvist once the proposal is finally approved, the report said.

Radio, television script writing course to review information

AMMAN (Petra) — An eleven-day course on television, radio and press script writing will be held Saturday at the Palace of Culture, Hussein Sports City.

The course, organised by the Developmental Information and Training Department in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), aims at exchanging expertise in the field of script writing and discussing problems facing script writers.

Taking part in the course will be writers and directors from Jordan Television, Radio Jordan, the Jordanian News Agency and the Jordanian Writers and Theatres Associations in addition to representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Social Development, Agriculture, Health, the Jordan Valley Authority, the Jordanian Farmers Federation, the Jordan

Family Planning and Protection Association and the developmental information department.

Participants will receive training in modern theories and television and radio script writing in addition to drama and educational films.

They will also discuss a number of working papers, one of which is related to population policy in Jordan prepared by Labour Minister Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, while another is related to television broadcasting prepared by Jordanian Broadcasting Corporation Director Nasouh Al Majali.

Other subjects of discussion during the sessions will be the psychology of contacts and development of cinema and television, their relation to population issues and the language of cinema, television and press in comparison to the language used in literary texts.



The Franciscan Sisters offer family planning advice to women attending their mother and child centres in Zarqa and Marj. (photo by Simonetta Carr)

MCM centres

Dr. Kerwane commends the work of mother and child health centres which give advice on family planning and provide contraceptives for women who request them or require them for medical reasons.

Though, as mentioned, population increase is not the primary concern of family planning in Jordan, it is a fact that in larger cities there is also a greater demand for contraceptives. The reason is mainly economical. "Also, the urban people tend to have a higher level of education," Dr. Kerwane says. "People see the example of foreign countries. Besides, education

gives them higher standards of living, and they realise they can't keep up with those standards having a large family. So they now seem to limit themselves to two or three children at the most, while the average family in Jordan is composed of seven people.

In rural areas," Dr. Karwane continues, "people still prefer large families, which are sometimes an asset in the work of the field. Originally, it was also considered a protection from aggressions. People there are still proud of their big families, but they often settle for a low standard of living conditions and health."

Also on Nov. 22, Ahmad Fuad, 40, informed the police that when he left his store for few seconds to talk to one of his neighbours, he returned to find that the drawer where he kept his money was open and empty. He had JD 40 stolen

amount and particularly the physiochemical characteristics of the cervical mucus are appropriate. Women are asked to observe the nature of their cervical mucus and to chart it monthly.

The 'Ovulation Method' is approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the official birth control methods. In a study conducted in five countries on 100 women over a period of one year, WHO reported that 90 per cent of the women were able to recognise their mucus and only 3 per cent conceived.

"None of the contraceptives commonly used are 100 per cent safe," says Sister Dorothy, family planning expert of the Franciscan Sisters. "I have seen numerous women becoming pregnant while on the pill or using the IUD. Besides, all these methods are dangerous. Pills can cause a variety of side effects such as heart disease, artery disease, even cancer. Women using the pill for a long period of time complain of headaches, dizziness and general malaise. IUDs often cause hemorrhages."

At our centres, women usually ask for natural methods," she continues. "But the problems come when the husbands realise they have to abstain from intercourse for a short period of time every month and are unwilling to do this. Natural methods of contraception are based on love and respect, something that is often lacking in this culture where couples often don't marry for love and the woman is still mostly subject to her husband." Using these methods, the husbands must cooperate," added Sister Dorothy.

"This lack of respect," Sister Dorothy says, "is also shown in the fact that many women come asking for contraception, but their husbands don't let them continue, because of social pressures, large families are still a prestige in some areas, or they desperately want a son after many daughters. They (the husbands) often don't realise that the burden is on the woman. Many women are tired after so many pregnancies and their uterus is tired too, so they often miscarry."

The Franciscan Sisters have found the ovulation method very simple for women to understand, even illiterate women. "Even in the refugee camps they cherish these charts under their mattresses," Sister Dorothy recalls. Natural family planning is taught in regular lectures at the centres in Zarqa and Marj "so that even if women are not interested now, or prefer pills or the IUD, when complications arise or an unwanted pregnancy takes place, they will remember," Sister Dorothy says.

But, if Islam is not opposed to family planning, other religions and some individuals are opposed to the use of "unnatural" means such as pills or IUDs for birth control. "Some people ask us for natural methods," says Dr. Abu-Nadi, "which are harmless and totally costless."

Natural methods depend on the fact that, throughout the reproductive phase of their lives, women are infertile most of the time, and these methods aim to detect the fertile days in order to avoid intercourse if pregnancy is not desired. The first method of this kind was the 'Rhythm Method', or 'Ogino-Knaus Method', a predictive method based on recorded variations in the length of the menstrual cycle, which has revealed, however, inescapable weaknesses.

A commonly used method is the 'Temperature Method' in which the occurrence of ovulation is verified by a shift in the basal body temperature. This method is post-ovulatory.

Another JFPPA project is being conducted in Jerash in order to develop the women's situation in rural areas by training them in practical skills such as sewing or handicrafts. At the same time, family planning lectures are given by specialists, physicians, sociologists and demographers.

As a member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) based in London, the JFPPA receives an annual grant from them. The John Hopkins University and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) also contribute towards JFPPA expenses. A small income comes from registration fees and from sales of contraceptives. These are donated by the IPPF but are sold at a minimal price. (1 JD for an IUD, 50 fils for a box of pills.) "mainly to give the women the idea that they are getting something with a little value, not entirely free of charge," says Dr. Adel Abu-Nadi, executive director of the JFPPA.

Mr. Abu-Nadi says that, in 1982, JFPPA clinics visited a total number of approximately 26,000 women, which rose to approximately 31,000 for 1983. He believes that this will reach 36,000 for the present year.

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Maintaining dignity

THE RETURN to the Middle East this week of United States Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy is billed as a sign of increased American involvement in the Israeli-Lebanese talks on an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Mr. Murphy is also said to be planning visits to other countries, to explore prospects for an overall settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We are not sure whether this calls for us to laugh or to cry. A primal scream would be the most appropriate response, but that would be slightly undignified, and it would do us all well to maintain our dignity in these times of political confusion and insult.

Certainly, the United States is a superpower that has interests in this region. We cannot simply ignore it or refuse to deal with it, especially when so many Arab countries look to the United States as a source of arms, wheat, technology or higher education. And yet, the present state of Arab-American relations leaves a sour taste in one's mouth. The United States unstintingly provides Israel with the political, military and economic support that Israel uses to ravage the Arab World; and then, the United States comes back as a wolf in sheep's clothing, or rather, a protagonist in a mediator's cloak, and looks for opportunities to make peace among Arabs and Israelis.

It is nonsensical and insulting, and it is high time the Arab states, individually or collectively, started to deal with the United States in a more dignified and politically realistic manner. We want to maintain good ties with America, and to exchange goods, students and friendship. But goodwill has to flow in both directions. America cannot be both the source of the armaments that enslave us and the political forces that bring us salvation. We are fooling ourselves, and making fools of ourselves, if we continue this fantasy policy of expecting America to pressure Israel and bring peace to the Middle East. Some Arab leaders should take the opportunity of Mr. Murphy's visit this week to tell him that. If we've lost the land, let us at least maintain our dignity.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Birth of a civilisation

WITH THE birthday anniversary of Prophet Mohammad, the Arab and Islamic nations remember a great event: the birth of Islam. But Muslims also try to benefit from the lessons brought to humanity by the emergence of Islam, in one of the darkest ages of history.

Before Islam, the Arabs were divided and weak and did not constitute a nation recognised by the world. With Islam, the Arabs became strong and united and were able to spread the name of God everywhere.

Islam unified Arab ranks and formed from them a powerful nation advocating the principles of the new faith. Before Islam Arab land formed an arena for other nations which attacked and pillaged it at will, but the picture changed after Islam and after the Arabs became united and strong.

Let us hope that the Prophet's birthday anniversary will act as an incentive for the Arabs to rebuild their power and unify their ranks again.

Al Dustour: Time for remembrance

THE BIRTHDAY anniversary of Prophet Mohammad is a good occasion for Muslims to remember the meanings of Islam and the greatness of the new faith that dawned on humanity in one of its darkest eras of history.

The anniversary comes at a time when Muslims and Arabs are facing grave dangers and living through difficult circumstances. The celebrations held by Muslims on this occasion are a good thing but remain insufficient because many people are not fully aware of the real conditions of their Muslim brothers in other parts of the world.

The anniversary is a chance to consider these conditions and try to improve them. It is an opportunity for self-criticism so that the points of weakness can be defined and things put right again. This has to happen if the Muslims are to face the dangers and challenges.

Muslims should not forget the land which embraces their holy places and which is now under the yoke of Zionist occupation. They must work hard to regain their lands and shrines.

Sawt Al Shaab: A heritage of sacrifices

EVER SINCE the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was established, the leaders of the country realised that they have to offer sacrifices and to work diligently and hard to build up the nation and to overcome the challenges. Thanks to these leaders, Jordan has become strong and indeed a fortress of steadfastness, capable of confronting all conspiracies and repelling dangers.

The enemies of this country have realised that it would be impossible for them to try to shake Jordan or cause a breach in the walls of this fortress, and there, they resorted to treachery and terrorism. They resorted to killing Jordanian diplomats abroad in a cowardly manner which reflects the malicious spirit of the perpetrators.

The enemies of Jordan are wrong to believe that they can shake our self-confidence or national stand. The crimes they commit can never dislodge Jordan from its firm national course.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

No conceivable war Arabs could win

By Franz Schurmann

AS OPEC's decline becomes increasingly evident, it is worth trying to gauge some long-term trends that affect the Middle East. The decline of OPEC means that the Arab nation has lost a most powerful weapon against the West and indirectly against Israel. What remains? Military struggle? Terrorism?

The Reagan administration and, of course, the Israelis endlessly talk about terrorism. The PLO are routinely called "terrorists." Qadafi is a "terrorist." The Syrians aid and abet "terrorism." The Iranians are "terrorists." Now it would appear, judging from the American press, that every Shi'ite is a potential terrorist.

Why so much effort to convince everybody that the Arab World produces bumper crops

of terrorists? The reason, so far as the Israelis are concerned, is clear. Israel needs enemies to unify a country afflicted with a deteriorating economy and a population seething with conflict. But they have to be special kind of enemies. Even the Israelis cannot say: the one hundred million Arabs are our enemies. They need specific enemies which are, presumably, attackable and defeatable. So we have the "terrorists." Every time Israeli bombs kill people in the Bekaa Valley, they can say: We wiped out so and so many terrorists.

For Washington, the convenient terrorist in the Middle East was Qadafi. One could blame everything on Qadafi and so make the Israelis happy. But now Libya and the U.S.

good friend Morocco have formed a union. When Washington officials heard this, they almost went crazy. How could King Hassan take away Washington's favourite terrorist?

What is a more powerful weapon against the Israeli occupiers in southern Lebanon, terrorism or the seething hatred of the predominantly Shi'ite population? I would guess the latter. There is no way the Israelis can say as they did when they first invaded Lebanon: See most people accept us; it is only a small handful of terrorists who oppose us. The hatreds of the people of southern Lebanon flow into the hatreds that abound in Israel itself and make the domestic situation there worse and

worse.

As to military action, there is no conceivable war which the Arabs could win. Israel still retains an immense technological superiority. We now know from the Iran-Iraq war that modern military technology enabled Iraq to bold out and turn the tide. It will be a long time before Arab nations have a similar technology. But then why should they want it?

And, in fact, it is difficult to imagine another war between Israel and any other country. It is unlikely that either Syria, Jordan, or Egypt would provoke it, and for Israel just to decide it wanted to kill some more Arabs on the "battlefield" would, this time, ar-

use enormous opposition from within many segments of the Jewish population.

This suggests that the long-term trend in the Middle East is going to be a kind of peace, or rather a situation of non-war. Peace, I really believe, can in time be a potent weapon for the Arab cause.

If the Iran-Iraq war fades away and if Lebanon, even without a full withdrawal of Israeli forces, achieves a workable settlement, then I think there is a good chance we shall see in the Middle East what happens in many countries after prolonged periods of war: sudden and far-reaching economic growth. Lebanon and Beirut could recover swiftly from the horrors of war. Syria

could similarly recover from the horrors of Hama. News from Egypt is good, as there are signs that that bureaucracy-overloaded country is beginning to break out of its standstill condition. Iraq's good showing in the war could give its talented people a real impetus to move ahead on the economic front.

The greatest power of the Arab people has never been its oil. It has been the fact that a people who once produced such a stunning civilisation, who have now achieved levels of education far beyond the ignorance once pervasive in the Middle East, and who are as intelligent and hardworking as people in the West, may now see that their hour has arrived.

Is U.S. building base in Turkish-held Cyprus?

Old fears of U.S. intentions have been revived among the Greek-Cypriot community by new allegations of an RDF military base in Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus. Eva Dadrian, of the London-based Middle East magazine analyses the background to the latest controversy.

THE CYPRUS problem is re-emerging as a matter of major international interest — in a new guise. With the latest peace talks deadlocked, Cyprus government officials have attacked the U.S. for its role in the island's affairs and accused Washington of financing a new military base in the Turkish-occupied sector. According to leading officials, the airport at Lefkoniko, currently under construction, is to be used by U.S. forces operating in the Middle East.

In the war of words between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots, the issue of Lefkoniko airport has been the subject of allegation and denial for almost a year. Greek-Cypriot newspapers have written of the major works being undertaken to prepare the site, some 40 miles from Nicosia.

Despite strict Turkish-Cypriot security in the area, accounts of huge earthmovers and heavy transport operated by hundreds of foreign workers have filtered through. Quantities of building materials have been observed at the nearby port of Famagusta, which the Greek-Cypriot media has alleged are bound for the airport.

As a picture of the project has been pieced together, Greek-Cypriot commentators have suggested that construction is on a scale that matches the development of a major military airport. They have estimated its cost at between \$500mn and \$550mn.

In Greece the newspaper Ethnos Tis Kiriakis has alleged that "U.S. spy planes" based at Helenikon, near Athens, and Souda, in Crete, are to operate from Lefkoniko. There have been repeated allegations that the airport is to be used as a forward base for the U.S. Central Command, formerly the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF).

In June, Turkish-Cypriot "foreign minister" Dr. Nefi Mumir Ertugun confirmed that the air-

port had military as well as civilian potential, and that a mainland Turkish company and some foreign workers were involved in the project. But officials of the self-proclaimed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" reject allegations from the Greek-Cypriot side that American experts are supervising construction. The republic's representatives said that all such suggestions were "lies" and that the Turkish contractor working at Lefkoniko had engaged his own labour force.

Turkish government officials are equally scathing about the allegations. One official dismissed the notion of U.S. involvement as "absurd — nothing to do with reality". He maintained that the issue had been invented by the Greek-Cypriot side to draw attention away from the Cyprus peace talks and what he called "Greek-Cypriot intransigence", warning against "a common temptation to see events in this region as part of a masterplan staged by the U.S."

Critics of the Turkish-Cypriot republic maintain that the new airport is designed to advance its economic and military integration into the region, and to satisfy American needs. They point to the statement by Mr. Oksousoglou, a close adviser of Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash, who argues that partition is the best solution for the island. "It (partition) gave Turkish-Cypriots economic independence, and this will improve with the new airport," Mr. Oksousoglou says.

Many Greek-Cypriots view the Lefkoniko project as helping to satisfy the needs of a Turkish-Cypriot republic that badly needs international support. Since its establishment in November 1983, the republic has been able to establish diplomatic relations only with Turkey. It has made modest progress with some Islamic coun-

tries — attending last year's summit of the Islamic Conference Organisation, for example, with observer status — and developing some economic links with Arab states.

Greek-Cypriot critics argue that the development of a major airport will assist the republic's efforts, but also that it represents a new and important piece of evidence that Turkish-Cypriots are receiving assistance from America — a country which, they maintain, has long wished to see the island permanently partitioned.

It is this allegation which is now being raised once again by senior Greek-Cypriot officials. According to this view, the establishment of the Turkish-Cypriot republic brings one step nearer the realisation of a plan drawn up 20 years ago by U.S. strategists.

Shortly after Cyprus gained independence from Britain in 1960, constitutional disputes began between representatives of the majority Greek-Cypriot community — some 82 per cent of the population — and the minority Turkish-Cypriots. The violence which followed led to Turkish military intervention in 1964 and brought Greece — together with Turkey and Britain one of three guarantors of Cypriot independence — to the brink of war with its neighbour (and NATO ally), Turkey.

The U.S. developed a close interest in the problem. It put forward the radical solution of a geographical division of the island between the two communities, and their attachment (respectively) to Greece and Turkey. Known as the Acheson plan, these proposals also suggested that "Turkey would be granted a sovereign base on Cyprus."

At this time Washington had access to a number of bases in Turkey and Greece, to the huge Wheelus base in Libya and to listening-posts along the Soviet border and, by courtesy of the British, in Cyprus. However, after the toppling of Libya's King Idriss in 1969 the Wheelus base was lost, and during the 1973 Arab-Israeli war the importance of Israeli in Cyprus was re-emphasised. There

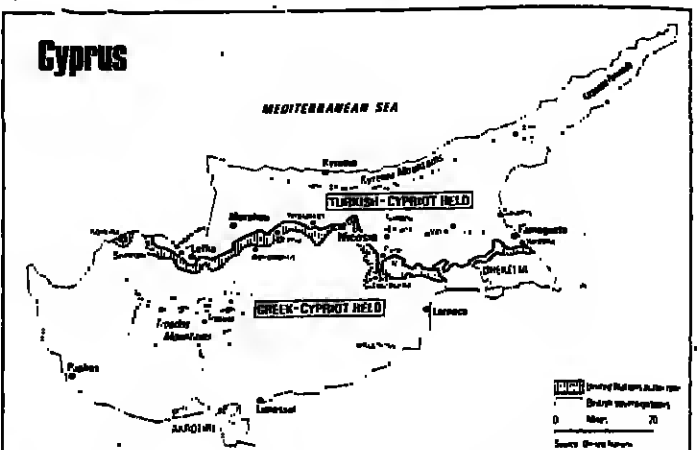
while leading Turkish politicians such as Foreign Minister F.C. Erkin were enthusiastic, Ankara agreed not to pursue it, but to stay within the terms of the agreed treaty on the island.

However, a high-ranking Pentagon official recalls that the U.S. and its allies remained anxious about the implications of the dispute. He comments: "At that particular time America was going to be very busy in Vietnam and South-East Asia. Therefore, first we needed to secure a strong alliance in the West. Second, it was vital for us and our NATO partners to stay very tightly together. And third, we could not afford any breach in the eastern wing of our alliance. It would simply have meant suicide for us."

He adds that U.S. policy has not changed: "As for the present, the island is still of vital importance for U.S. and NATO interests in the region. We said it before, and I repeat it again, our involvement in the East Mediterranean basin is of prime importance to us."

Greek-Cypriot critics of U.S. policy maintain that Washington has long sought military facilities on both sides of a divided island. During the 1960s the U.S. was anxious to end the feud between Greece and Turkey which threatened NATO interests in the region. In addition it wanted to bring Cyprus into NATO on the assumption that the only method of achieving the island's integration was to partition it between the two NATO members with which it had geopolitical ties. A Greek-Cypriot ex-diplomat comments that Washington's solution was "to tie the two mules at the same stake."

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have long been allegations in Greece and Cyprus that the attempted 1974 coup by the Greek government in Cyprus was guided by American intelligence organisations anxious to introduce a Turkish military presence and secure further NATO bases before the Middle East crisis deepened.

With the island effectively partitioned after the Turkish invasion of 1974, Washington became more dependent on facilities in Cyprus granted by the British. After the fall of the Shah in Iran in 1979, the U.S. was forced to dismantle its listening-posts near the Soviet border. Soon after the Iranian Revolution, the Greek-Cypriot press began to report that Americans were re-installing them in British bases. However, British radio monitoring experts maintain that this would have been impossible, as the stations were purpose-built for each location.

But the U.S. is currently using British bases on the island. A British Foreign Office official states: "The Americans are using the bases to monitor the Middle East peace agreements with the approval of all concerned parties and with the knowledge of the government of Cyprus."

There is a widespread belief among Greek-Cypriots that the U.S. would now like to develop a full range of military activities in the Turkish sector, and that it has struck a deal with the Turkish-Cypriot "republic" under which it will finance the building of the airport at Lefkoniko in return for use of its facilities.

Last month a senior official of the Nicosia government, insisting on anonymity, maintained that photographs of the site had been obtained which showed that its scale exceeded any military or civil aviation requirements in the island. He maintained: "The unilateral declaration of independence was made to enable Denkash to say yes to the Rapid Deployment Force."

The accusations are coupled with expressions of indignation that Washington has not used its considerable influence on Turkey to press the Turkish-Cypriots for more concessions in the recent rounds of "proximity talks" at the United Nations in New York. Washington plans to provide \$770mn of aid to Turkey, and the administration has successfully argued against moves in the Senate to cut the package by \$270mn, settling on a modest \$55mn reduction.

Greek-Cypriots contrast the U.S. administration's enthusiasm for Turkey, and its apparent tolerance of Turkish forces in northern Cyprus, with its formal opposition to the partition of the island. Many now argue that direct superpower involvement will prejudice the future of Cyprus for years to come.

He studied law by correspondence and passed the examination of the law society in London.

Defeated by Sir Eric in 1961 elections, Mr. Blaize returned to power the next year after Sir Eric was removed from office by the British over allegations of corruption.

During Mr. Blaize's five-year term Grenada achieved self-rule as an associate state but Sir Eric swept back into power in elections in 1967 and Mr. Blaize became leader of the opposition.

In 1976, two years after full independence, Mr. Blaize's GNP entered an alliance with Maurice Bishop's left-wing New Jewel Movement (NJM) to try to defeat Sir Eric's increasingly repressive government at the polls.



Pro-independence riots splitting new Caledonia

By Brian Timms

NOUMEA — Two weeks of violence and disruption by Melanesians demanding independence have split the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia into two opposing camps.

There has always been a sharp contrast in the territory between Noumea, a sophisticated town of pavement cafes and restaurants where 50,000 whites live, and the rural areas which have much greater similarities to other Melanesian islands in the Pacific.

But violence by Melanesians, or Kanaks, demanding immediate independence, which erupted during elections for a new territorial assembly on Nov. 18, has virtually cut off the wooded mountains,

farmland and rugged bush north of Noumea from the capital.

Noumea, on the southern tip of the 400 kilometre long main island, remains calm. Whites playing boules, a form of bowls, under the flame trees increase the impression of a French provincial town.

But the whites, some of them former settlers from Algeria, Indochina or Vanuatu, the former Anglo-French condominium to the north east, are contemplating an uncertain future.

In the bars conversation is dominated by the recent troubles and discussions of whether to leave or stay if independence comes.

Trouble began during the Nov. 18 elections for a new territorial assembly designed to give the ter-

ritory 1,500 kilometres east of Australia greater autonomy before a referendum on independence in 1989.

Militant Melanesians, who had previously set 1984 as a target date for independence after 131 years of French rule, called a boycott of the poll and disrupted voting with widespread violence and hundreds of roadblocks on rural roads.

An anti-independence white-dominated party swept to power after a turnout of only 50 per cent and the Melanesian violence and disruption has continued with policemen shot and wounded and government officials taken hostage.

Two people, one a Kanak and one a white settler, have been killed in exchanges of fire across barricades.

The militant Melanesians oppose a referendum on a one-man, one-vote basis because after 20 years of heavy immigration from France and Polynesian islands in the Pacific they comprise only 43 per cent of the 145,000-strong population.

Over the weekend the militants of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) swore in a "provisional government" and declared the territory independent.

The barricades on the narrow roads outside Noumea and crossing the central range of wooded mountains have left many rural areas in the nickel-rich territory virtually under siege.

Affair benefits leukaemia

By David Beresford

A ROMANTIC memory in the life of a 75-year-old bachelor has earned medical research a multi-million pound bequest to help fight leukaemia.

The bachelor was Mr. James Sainsbury, a director for 33 years of the Sainsbury supermarket chain. The romance was with the English actress, Kay Kendall, who died of leukaemia a quarter of a century ago without knowing that she was suffering from it.

Mr. Sainsbury, who died in October, has left the bulk of his estate — of £18,367,303 — to set up a Kay Kendall Leukaemia Fund. The romantic attachment between the couple has previously been a close family secret. Ms. Kendall is perhaps best remembered for her role as the high-spirited model in the film *Genievie*, in which she partnered Kenneth More.

She died in 1959, at the age of 32, two years after marrying the actor Rex Harrison — who had been told of her terminal disease by doctors but had been sworn to silence. Ms. Kendall herself thought she was suffering from anaemia.

Her death helped to publicise what was then a little-known disease. A few months afterwards the Leukaemia Research Fund was established. It has since spent £17 million on research into the illness.

A new centre for the charity was opened in London by the Duke of Kent only two weeks ago.

A close acquaintance of Mr. Sainsbury said recently that little



Actress Kay Kendall

was known about his private life — he lived much of his time in the South of France — but his romance with the actress pre-dated hers with Rex Harrison.

Mr. Sainsbury has also left substantial sums to his personal staff. The captain of his private yacht,

John R. Johnson, receives £55,000, including £30,000 from the sale of the vessel. His former secretary, Mary Gorbam, gets £25,000, and his manservant, Ian Morrison, £10,000.

Other bequests go to relatives and friends — *The Guardian*.

Is artificial heart only for the rich?

By Paul Raeburn

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky — The initial success of William Schroeder's artificial heart surgery has sparked fresh concern that the high-tech, high-priced mechanical heart will eventually be reserved for the very rich.

Sunday was the two-year anniversary of the world's first implantation of an artificial heart, into the chest of Barney Clark, a dentist from the Seattle area who lived with the heart for 112 days. The cost was \$250,000.

The cost of Mr. Schroeder's surgery is not yet known. But the cost of artificial heart implants could drop to \$50,000 in two years, says the artificial heart's inventor, Dr. Robert Jarvik of Salt Lake City, Utah.

If that optimistic prediction turns out to be correct, and if artificial heart recipients get at least two or three years of life in return, the artificial heart will be less expensive than nursing home care,

said Dr. Jarvik.

"Many people can be rehabilitated for less than the cost of going back to nursing homes," he said. Nursing homes charge \$15,000 to \$40,000 per year, he said.

Kidney dialysis, to pick another example, costs \$22,000 a year, according to the National Kidney Foundation in New York.

Dr. Jarvik estimates the cost of an artificial heart at \$20,000 for surgery plus \$25,500 for the heart and its portable driver.

The large \$40,000 driver sustaining Mr. Schroeder is intended as a temporary system, and Dr. Jarvik expects it to be obsolete in two years.

Dr. William C. Devries, affiliated with the Human Institute here, is now the only surgeon authorized to implant the artificial heart.

Heart transplants, however, which are similar in complexity to artificial heart implants, cost \$100,000, and it may be some time before the cost of artificial

heart surgery gets down to \$20,000.

John Watson, coordinator of a competing artificial heart development programme at the National Institute of Health, said, however, that the cost of follow-up medical care for artificial heart recipients was not known.

"If you spend \$25,000 for a device and you have to spend \$200,000 for medical care, there's something wrong," Mr. Watson said in a telephone interview.

Dr. Jarvik estimated the cost of yearly care for artificial heart recipients at \$5,000.

Mr. Watson said one thing that could increase the cost of follow-up care is the possibility of infection at the point where the Jarvik-7 heart's supply lines emerge from the patient's bodies.

That possibility is one reason why the artificial heart programme that Mr. Watson directs is working towards a totally implantable electrical heart.

The programme is working on

what are called left-ventricular assist devices, which relieve some of the burden from the left side of the heart — the side that pumps blood through the body. The right side pumps blood to the lungs.

Such devices, powered by miniature electrical motors, could be powered by a battery belt. The battery current would be sent to a wire coil worn around the waist, outside the body. That coil would generate an electromagnetic field that could induce an electrical current in a similar coil permanently implanted beneath the skin — with no direct connection between the coils," Mr. Watson said.

While these devices might reduce the cost of follow-up medical care, their implantation and the devices themselves would be comparable in cost to Mr. Jarvik's artificial heart, Mr. Watson said.

Mr. Jarvik is also working on an implantable electrical heart. Even if artificial heart surgery does drop to the price of kidney dialysis, that is no guarantee that it will become nearly as common.

Dialysis is paid for by the U.S. government, and costs taxpayers nearly \$2 billion per year, the National Kidney Foundation says.

There is now a determined effort to cut medical costs, and it is unlikely that the government would embrace artificial heart surgery as quickly as it did dialysis.

Mr. Jarvik estimates that 10,000 to 50,000 of the half-million Americans who have heart attacks each year might be candidates for the artificial heart.

Fifty thousand artificial heart operations per year at a cost of roughly \$50,000 each would cost \$2.5 billion a year.

Further cost reductions could come in the actual price of artificial hearts, however.

Mr. Jarvik noted that part of the cost of the devices was intended to recover the large cost of developing them. Once that cost has been recovered through sales of hearts, Mr. Jarvik will be able to lower the price, something that is routine for new products on the market.

U.S. hospitals woo patients from abroad to heal deficit

By Richard Koenig

PHILADELPHIA — When King Khalid of Saudi Arabia needed heart surgery in 1978, he went to Cleveland Clinic Foundation Hospital.

The hospital redecorated several rooms, at his expense, and cordoned off a hallway to create a suite. A hotel that the foundation owned was pressed into service for the king's entourage of 80.

Foreign patients have long sought medical care in sophisticated U.S. hospitals. But now some U.S. hospitals, facing tighter health-care budgets and dwindling occupancy rates, have started seeking foreign patients.

"We have to go after a new market," says Carlos Padron, director of international affairs at Cedars Medical Centre, Miami. Says Richard Swan, a vice president at Los Angeles's St. Vincent Medical Centre: "We're gearing up to go after the international market in a more organized way."

The patient network

International Health Systems Inc., a private company formed last year partly as a go-between for foreign patients and U.S. hospitals, says it has 10 hospital clients, most affiliated with medical schools. The Denver-based com-

pany has established contacts abroad who make it their business to know who wants U.S. medical care.

Among U.S. medical institutions planning international marketing efforts is Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. Dr. Bertram Brown, Hahnemann's chief executive officer, says that 15,000 foreign patients a year could be attracted to the teaching hospitals of Philadelphia's six medical schools by 1987, compared with perhaps 1,000 last year.

Even when foreign patients make up only 3 per cent to 5 per cent of a hospital's admissions, the additional revenue can make a significant difference. Often patients make the trip to the U.S. for major procedures such as coronary bypass surgery, which can cost \$20,000. The people who can afford such a trip typically come with dollars in hand and they pay all the charges. By contrast, the Medicare and Medicaid programmes in the U.S. pay less than the full charges.

In Philadelphia, an economic development group plans to assist the teaching hospitals by arranging transportation for foreign patients, finding lodging for their families and expediting currency exchange.

Such efforts pay off when a sat-

isfied customer, especially a prominent one, brings word-of-mouth business. Since King Khalid's hospitalisation in Cleveland, other Saudis have visited the hospital: a record 316 of them in 1982. A Cleveland Clinic spokesman says the identification card carried by patients has become something of a status symbol in Arabic countries. "They show that almost as much as we show the (American Express) Gold Card," he says.

Staying in touch

One way to get more international referrals is to stay in touch with doctors abroad. Foreign nationals trained in U.S. hospitals constitute a global network, and international seminars, in addition to providing scientific exchanges, also help hospitals strengthen referral networks. Mount Sinai Medical Centre in Miami, for instance, offers post-graduate training for Latin American doctors and presents medical seminars in Miami and Colombia.

Some hospitals are trying to broaden the market beyond the wealthy classes by arranging payment plans with the health programmes established by foreign governments. Miami's

Mercy Hospital says it has agreements with some Latin American governments that are willing to pay full charge for certain cases.

This medical diplomacy can be tricky even though hospitals stress that they want mutually beneficial arrangements. A hospital official who has worked in Latin America warns: "You always run the risk of looking like the rip-off gringo."

The selling point isn't always the quality of care. Sometimes a U.S. hospital can provide the care faster than a financially strained health programme elsewhere. The care may even be cheaper if the other country's technology is less developed.

St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston says it generally has managed to stay within standard payment ceilings for heart surgery set by the Netherlands, the cost of airfare notwithstanding. The hospital, which is associated with the surgeon Denton Cooley, can spread its costs over many patients (its heart-surgery unit has already performed more than 55,000 operations).

About 4,000 Dutch citizens have come to St. Luke's since 1976. But the Dutch connection is dwindling as the Netherlands en-

larges its own heart-surgery capacity and the strong dollar makes U.S. surgery a more costly proposition.

British private hospitals once sought foreign patients, mostly from the Mideast, in a similar marketing push. But U.K. hospital administrators now say foreign patients' importance is declining as those countries begin to develop their own sophisticated medical care.

The big for-profit chains aren't waiting for foreign business to come to them. Hospital Corp. of America owns or manages 377 hospitals in the U.S., owns seven in Britain and has business in Saudi Arabia, India, Brazil and other countries. National Medical Enterprises Inc. manages hospitals in Saudi Arabia and soon will manage one in Malaysia.

Back in the U.S., Humana last year opened an international heart institute in Louisville, Ky. That institute shows how many borders modern medicine crosses. Although all members of the seven-man surgical team have U.S. training, one comes from Canada, one from Switzerland, one from Jordan, one from Egypt and one from Syria. And the team recently performed its first heart-transplant operation — on a West German — *The Wall Street Journal*.

French birth rates very low

By Jeffrey Ulbrich

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The French are not making enough babies. For the past decade, births have been on the decline. So have marriages. The population is getting older. If the current demographic trend continues, 30 per cent of all French people will be in retirement by the year 2040.

The consequences, according to demographers and socialists, will be a general decline in the quality of life, an unmanageable burden on social services, a disappearance of creativity, more immigration and an increasing inability to assimilate the newcomers, leading to a loss of specific French identity.

The French are obsessed by the problem. President Francois Mitterrand calls it "a question of national survival."

The French birth rate plunged after World War I when the nation lost more than a million young men, demographic charts show. Today, the use of contraceptives, delayed marriages and increasing career possibilities for women are beginning to have an impact on the birth rate in France as in other industrialised nations.

The latest effort to stimulate the citizenry to do their duty is expected to go before the National Assembly before the end of the year. Essentially, it overhauls and expands the existing system of all-allocations given to families with children.

The plan, expected to cost five billion francs (\$550 million) over the next five years, will pay families 712 francs (\$78.25) per month for each child, beginning in the third month of pregnancy and

through the ninth month after birth.

A second element provides a 1,000-franc (\$110) monthly payment, beginning with the third child, in families where one parent is obliged to stop work. The allocation is paid for two years, after which the parent is guaranteed his old job back. If the parent decides to work only part-time a 500-franc (\$55) payment is made.

All on the allocations are non-taxable.

Finally, the Government decided to maintain its 10,800-franc (\$1,187) interest-free loan to young families.

"It is a simple, automatic and fair measure," said Social Affairs Minister Georgina Dufoix after the plan was presented to the French cabinet on Nov. 14.

"I have always asked that priority be accorded to family policy," Mr. Mitterrand told the cabinet. "I see even more the necessity for France to return to (a higher) birth-rate when so many countries are growing by prodigious bounds."

"I repeat, only generations that were numerous were creative."

The National Institute for Demographic Studies says the French birthrate in 1983 was only 1.82 children per woman. The necessary rate for simple replacement is 2.12.

But that is not the whole truth, according to the Association for Demographic Research and Information, which says the figure does not take into account the estimated 11 per cent of births in France to foreigners.

Even though a child born in France is considered to be French and is registered as such, it is not

certain he will keep the nationality. As a result, the association says, the real French birth-rate could be about 1.6 per cent.

There were 10,000 fewer marriages than in the same period last year. That means the figure could fall from 300,000 marriages in 1983 to about 285,000 in 1984.

Will the government's added payoffs really help? It's not all that certain.

"The aging of France has been underway already for a number of years," said Guy Durand, a professor at Montpellier University who is putting together a special government commission to study the consequences of unemployment.

"In any case, no matter what is done, the number of children will not increase in any great proportion," he said.

Aid to families is essentially a social matter, in Mr. Durand's view. "To expect this aid to increase the number of births is an illusion," he said. "It is probable that we can, temporarily, avoid too sharp a fall, but we will never return to the high birth-rates of the post-war period."

Mr. Durand says the problem of aging now being faced by France is a problem of all of the developed countries "in a world which is in the process of becoming younger."

The "underdeveloped" world, he said, is "boiling with youth." While old, rich Europeans "are arguing about marginal problems," they don't see that "the poor world is in the process of getting younger and is therefore going to take over first place."

Archaeological sites are always full of ghosts

By Geoffrey Bibby

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES are always full of ghosts. But it is disconcerting to find oneself among their number. It was 30 years, almost to the day, since we had first set spade in the city-mound of Qala at al-Bahrain, and nothing seemed to have changed.

IT WAS a special occasion that had brought me back to Bahrain this year, the bicentenary of the Al-Khalifa family who, 200 years before, had established themselves as rulers of the island, freeing it from Persian domination. To celebrate the event they were holding a historical conference, at which 200 of the foremost authorities on Middle Eastern history and archaeology were gathered to assess the place of Bahrain and the Arabian Gulf in the history of the world.

I was taken to see the newest

excavations of Bahrain's own Antiquities Department. Out beyond the suburbs, where the desert begins and where a new garden-city is planned, they were digging burial mounds. It was the first large-scale research project on the mounds, designed to classify their types and to attempt to determine more precisely the number of centuries their vast numbers covered. Beyond the 30 or so mounds that had been excavated the moundfields still stretched endlessly, an estimated 170,000 mounds in all, by far the largest prehistoric cem-

etery in the world.

But the 30 mounds, carefully chosen to give a cross-section of types and sizes, were meticulously excavated, drawn and photographed. And their contents, laid out in an adjoining tent, showed clearly that the earliest civilisation of Dilmun owed nothing to Mesopotamia. Here was the early painted pottery that we had first identified in the Oman peninsula far to the eastward, on the southeastern tip of Arabia, and which could be dated to about 2600 B.C. It was possible that the culture of the mound-builders had come to Bahrain from Oman. But it had developed independently here, into the Holy Land of Dilmun that had given the tradition of the Garden of Eden to the world... The enthralling tale of how

Geoffrey Bibby and other archaeologists from the Prehistoric Museum in Aarhus, Denmark, identified the present-day Gulf island of Bahrain as the site of the lost paradise of Dilmun has been told by Mr. Bibby in his book "Looking for Dilmun." It is one of the most gripping archaeological detective stories ever written.

But visitors to Bahrain today can still relive Mr. Bibby's search for Dilmun with the help of his book, visiting the major excavation sites, inspecting the most important finds and recapturing something of the excitement he felt as the pieces in the puzzle slowly fell into place and the ruins of "lost" Dilmun emerged from beneath his trowel.

These days the hunt for Dilmun begins at Bahrain's National Mus-

eam, over the causeway from the capital of Manama on Al-Muharraq island near the airport.

This is an essential first stop because visitors need to get past from the director, Sheikh Haya Al-Khalifa, to visit the Barber Temple, a key Dilmun relic. But the museum also contains a splendid display of Geoffrey Bibby's major finds, telling the story of the discovery of Dilmun and its links with the Garden of Eden...

Today, visitors can scramble into the pit and walk along the streets of ancient Dilmun, admire the great stone doorway of the palace, clamber through its rooms and recall how its inhabitants also commemorated man's fall centuries before Genesis was written... — *New York Times*.

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Top seeds toppled in Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Mats Wilander's chances of retaining his Australian Open tennis title were immeasurably improved Wednesday when three of the top five seeds, Ivan Lendl, Joakim Nystrom and Pat Cash, were ousted from the championship.

Top seed Lendl, forced by torn stomach muscles and heavy bandaging round his abdomen to serve well below his usual standard, succumbed 6-1, 7-6, 6-4 to ninth-seeded South African Kevin Curren in their held-over fourth-round match.

The Czechoslovak French Open Champion, who was trailing 6-1, 2-1 when play was called off because of rain Tuesday, said he would not have been able to go to four sets.

"By the end of the third set, I couldn't serve. It (the injury) worried me most when I had to serve."

Third-seeded Nystrom, who was left out of the Swedish Davis Cup team named Wednesday for the final against the United States this month, was another fourth-round casualty.

He was removed 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 by unseeded American Ben Testerman, who will meet West German teenager Boris Becker in the quarter-final round.

Local hopeful Cash, seeded fifth, failed to upset the seedings in his quarter-final match against South African-born Johan Kriek of the United States, the number four and now the main threat to second-seeded Swede Wilander.

Kriek, Australian Open champion in 1981 and 1982, won 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 and will meet a Swede in the semifinal — either Wilander or youngster Stefan Edberg.

Kriek and Edberg both need Grand Prix points to secure a spot in the masters championship in New York next month and a place in the Australian final would virtually guarantee entry to the tournament.

When play resumed Wednesday, Lendl regained the second-set service break he had lost Tuesday to draw level at 3-3 and games went with serve until the 11th. Two successive breaks forced the tiebreaker which Curren won 7-4.

The South African took the match on the only service break of the third set and now faces Scott Davis, who beat fellow-American Brad Gilbert in the quarter-final.

Lendl throughout used the end-changes to replace his bandages. Curren complained about the extra time taken by his opponent and Grand Prix supervisor Bill Gilmour and tournament referee Peter Bellenger were called on court several times.

Lendl pulled the stomach muscles during a tournament in the United States and the injury recurred during the international challenge tournament in Canberra and again Tuesday. A sports medical specialist was Wednesday flying from the capital to treat the problem.

Cash, semifinalist at this year's Wimbledon and U.S. Open Championships, seemed to lose heart after losing two set points in the ninth game of the first set and Kriek raced through the second with breaks in the first, fifth and seventh games.

The Melbourne teenager fought back briefly in the third but allowed hecklers in the crowd to upset him.

Trailing 2-0 in the tiebreak, he became involved in a war of words with one spectator.

"You come down here and play," Cash yelled. "You come here to watch me play. I don't play to watch you."

He went on to lose the tiebreak 7-4 and was afterwards at a loss to explain his lack of mobility.

"I honestly don't know what it is, but it's extremely frustrating. I just don't seem to be getting to volleys that I could normally walk over to and hit for a winner."

But he said he had not given up hope of reaching the masters and will play in the New South Wales Open in Sydney next week.



The Alia-sponsored Toyota Celica driven by George Haddad and co-driver Fawzi Sawalha ready to test their skills in Dubai.

Kuwait, South Korea draw

SINGAPORE (R) — Champions Kuwait were held to a goalless draw by South Korea Wednesday night in a crucial Group 'A' match in the Asian Cup Soccer Championships.

A heavy downpour before the kick-off made conditions difficult for the two teams who were playing in front of 25,000 spectators at the national stadium.

South Korea, who last won the cup 24 years ago, dominated the first half but missed several scoring chances.

In the 13th minute Korean skipper Park Chang Sun's long shot from the right wing flew centimetres wide of the left hand up-keeper with Kuwait goalkeeper Sam-

eer Said stranded.

Kuwait counter-attacked in the 15th minute and striker Faisal Al-Dakhil's tricky lob, after a corner on the right, drew a spectacular fingertip save from goalkeeper David Lee and into the net.

But Lee was left helpless in the 39th minute when striker Zhao Da Yu fired home Gu Guang Ming's right wing cross to put China 2-0 up.

China, beaten 2-0 by three-time champions Iran last Monday, maintained the pressure only to be denied more goals by a series of brilliant saves from Lee.

Thursday is a rest day in the competition.

Group 'B' match.

China opened the scoring in the 22nd minute when a 35-metre shot by sweeper Jia Xiu Quan slipped from the grasp of Singapore goalkeeper David Lee and into the net.

Two goals from John Wark, with a 24th minute penalty by Ian Rush in between, lifted them from 10th to sixth place in the first division, six points behind leaders Everton.

Coventry's goal was scored by Liverpool defender Alan Hansen. Stoke left back Tony Spelling was sent off moments after he was booked for a foul midway through the second half at Queen's Park Rangers.

Rangers triumphed 2-0 via goals by Bannister and John Gregory.

National Rally winner takes part in Dubai race

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian team is taking part in the Dubai International Rally, which begins in the Gulf emirate today, Thursday, and ends Friday.

Veteran Jordanian driver George Haddad and co-driver Fawzi Sawalha are representing Jordan in the rally, the sixth and final leg of the Middle East Rally Championship 1984.

The team is sponsored by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which airlifted the car to Dubai earlier this week. Alia is also sponsoring the support team of mechanics who left for Dubai Wednesday.

More than 30 specially-built cars from the Gulf Arab states, with ace-drivers of international reputation, are expected to take part in the Dubai rally, said Suhail Marar, a spokesman for the Royal Automobile Club, which organises three national rallies and

the fourth leg of the Middle East Rally Championship in Jordan earlier this year.

Saeed Al Hajri of Oatar, Michael Saleh of Kuwait, Mohammad Ibn Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are some of the top-seeded competitors in the 1,400-kilometre Dubai event.

Marar said. Hajri, who was placed third after Ibn Sulayem and Saleh in the Jordan leg of the rally, is leading in the overall point-rating for this year's Middle East Rally Championship and a finish without mishap should ensure his goal in Dubai.

The "special stages" involved in the Dubai event are not considered tough when compared to the Jordan rally, in that most of the 1,400 kilometres the cars will plough through is open desert, "sandy, but not dusty," according to Marar.

Haddad has provided his own Toyota Celica for the event and though it is not turbo-charged, it

does stand a good chance to finish the event, Marar said.

Most of the cars of other leading participants are turbo-charged, but of lesser engine capacity. For instance, while Haddad's Celica is of 2,000 cc Ibn Sulayem and Saleh will be behind the wheel of 1,800 cc turbo-charged Celicas.

Haddad, winner of the second and third rounds of the Jordan National Rally held earlier this year (he had to abandon the first because of an accident), chose Sawalha as his co-driver to make the team full Jordanian, Marar said. Haddad had his brother Nabil as co-driver in the second round of the national rally and Gordon Almond was his navigator in the third round.

Sawalha, a seasoned driver himself, has taken part in a number of rallies in Jordan, mostly as Marar's co-driver, and they finished fifth in the third and final round of the national rally in November.

Liverpool beats Coventry

LONDON (R) — Liverpool tuned up for Sunday's World Club Soccer Championship clash with Independiente of Argentina in Tokyo with a 3-1 English League win over Coventry Tuesday night.

Two goals from John Wark, with a 24th minute penalty by Ian Rush in between, lifted them from 10th to sixth place in the first division, six points behind leaders Everton.

Coventry's goal was scored by Liverpool defender Alan Hansen. Stoke left back Tony Spelling was sent off moments after he was booked for a foul midway through the second half at Queen's Park Rangers.

Rangers triumphed 2-0 via goals by Bannister and John Gregory.

Hearn named Boxer of the Year

MEXICO CITY (R) — U.S. super-welterweight champion Thomas Hearns was named Boxer of the Year Wednesday by the World Boxing Council (WBC).

Hearns won the title in December 1982 and has successfully defended it three times, against Luigi Minichillo of Italy, Panama's Roberto Duran and Fred Hutchinson of the U.S.

The title of most exemplary boxer of 1984 goes to heavy-weight champion Pinklon Thomas who overcame a drugs problem to win boxing's greatest crown, the WBC said.

Best fight of the year was between Mexico's Gabriel Bernal and Antoine Montero of France in June when Bernal retained the flyweight crown by an eleventh-round technical knockout.

The most dramatic fight, says the WBC, took place earlier this month in Puerto Rico when Jose Luis Ramirez of Mexico took the lightweight crown from Puerto Rico's Edwin Rosario by a technical knockout.

Nigeria's Shooting Stars face uphill task against Egypt's Zamalek

LAGOS (R) — Eight years ago IICC Shooting Stars of Ibadan became the first Nigerian soccer club to win an African trophy — the Cup Winners' Cup.

On Saturday they hope to achieve another Nigerian first by winning the top trophy of them all, the Champions' Cup — the only African soccer trophy Nigeria has never won.

On the way to that first trophy Stars beat Egypt's Zamalek in the semi-final. The same club now stands in their way again. Zamalek bring a two-goal advantage to Lagos and most sports experts here think the Nigerians face an impossible task.

Their fans are already unhappy with the team for conceding those two goals in the second half of the first leg in Cairo, and they are unlikely to give them the fanatical support they need if they fail to get an early goal.

Shooting Stars wanted to play the second leg at home in the industrial city of Ibadan, 100 km (60

miles) north of Lagos, where they have never lost.

But the African Football Confederation (AFC) refused to make an exception to the rule that all continental finals must be staged in national capitals.

Thousands of their fans are expected to be swarmed down from Ibadan and the club has appealed to supporters of arch-rivals Super Stars and Enugu Rangers to turn up for the match.

In 1975 Rangers were the first Nigerian side to make the Champions' Cup final, but they lost 1-0 away to Hafia of Guinea and then went down 2-1 at home.

No Nigerian club made a significant mark on the Champions' Cup competition for another five years, until Bendel Insurance reached a semi-final against Canon Yaounde, this year's Cup Winners' Cup finalists.

Shooting Stars have been training hard in the national stadium in Lagos where the match will be played, working on stamina under

the baking tropical sun, which they believe will be a precious ally against the Egyptians.

"We are not feeling any tension," midfielder Ogebe Fawole insists. But worry is clearly written all across the face of national coach Adegboye Ogunbade who has been drafted in to help the Stars.

QPR sacks manager

LONDON (R) — Alan Mullery was sacked as manager of English first division side Queen's Park Rangers Tuesday night just six months after taking over at the London soccer club from Terry Venables, now manager of Spain's Barcelona.

Mullery would not comment Wednesday on his dismissal which followed widespread dissatisfaction among the club's fans over a series of disappointing results.

Rangers, near the bottom of the first division, won Tuesday night's league match against fellow-strugglers Stoke 2-0. But the game was watched by the club's lowest crowd since April 1981, many of whom booed and shouted for Mullery's resignation.

Beckenbauer may keep job till 1990

SAARBRUECKEN, West Germany (R) — Franz Beckenbauer, appointed West German soccer team manager in July for a 'transitional' two-year period, may stay on till 1990, the head of the National Soccer Federation (DFB) said Wednesday.

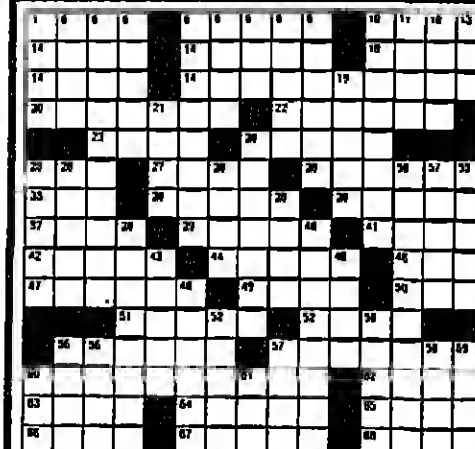
DFB President Hermann Neubauer told the West German sports agency SID in an interview: "We have a contract with Franz Beckenbauer until 1986 and we have agreed that it will be extended if he is enjoying the job and is having success."

Beckenbauer was appointed to lead the national team until the 1986 World Cup in Mexico after his predecessor Jupp Derwall resigned following last summer's European Championship.

Neubauer said he was delighted with the job Beckenbauer was doing. "He has committed himself to the national team in a way that no-one could have expected," he said.

THE Daily Crossword by Nancy McCarthy

ACROSS
1 False god
8 Indolence
10 Irish dish
14 Fr. composer
15 Island off N. Am.
16 Delhi VIP
17 Alliance acronym
18 Diced opposite
20 Ripple
22 Corn meal
23 Line a root
24 Watery swelling
25 Baba or Pasha
27 Bound
29 Marked in small quantities
33 Bend
34 Yellow gem
36 Actress Berger
37 "The com- - night."
39 Here agreeable
41 Remain
42 Mex. Indian
43 Bogot
46 - de France
47 Hardens
49 Dorothy's dog
50 Neighbor
51 "Doodle" for one
53 Hawser
55 Blueback or sockeye
57 Protective barrier
60 Panicle
61 Residences
62 Celestial twinkler
63 Tattered
64 Unlettered
65 Exhaust
66 Small branch
67 Lieu
68 Adolescent affliction
DOWN
1 Judge's bench
2 Sandrac tree
3 Look forward to
4 Sierra
5 Shallot
6 Rustic way
7 Choose
8 Group of three
9 Man at the plate
10 Ecclesiastics
11 Facility
12 Blackbirds
13 Family member
14 Residences
15 Singer Eartha
16 Big appetite
17 Opera favor- ites
18 Hung, composer
19 Roof adorn- ment
20 Microbe destroyer
21 Europe's "Boat"
22 Kind of cake
23 Nil
24 Very young tree
25 Went back over
26 Scale
27 Port
28 Doss bad
29 Face
30 Vermicelli or rigatoni
31 Winter talkout
32 N. commune
33 Tower town
34 Mark
35 Forest, member
36 Lawyer, abbr.
37 Foot feature



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THE BRITISH COUNCIL المجلس الثقافي البريطاني ARABIC COURSES

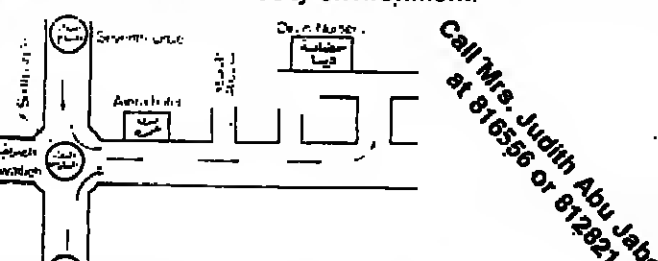
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Cinema CONCORD

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IDIANA JONES
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Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Tel: 22117
AL TAKHSHIBEH
(WOODEN SHED)
(Colour)
(Arabic)
Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 25155
THE WOMAN IN RED
(Colour)
3:30 6:00 8:30 10:30 p.m.

Cinema ZAHARAN

Tel: 23171
LOOT
(Colour)
Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema OPERA

JAWS-3
(Colour)
Abdali, be Ind-ALIA offices

Cinema PALESTINE

Tel: 22117
NISHAN
RETURN OF THE LEOPARD
Performances: 12-3-7

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 22198
RAAJ TILAK
(Colour)
(Indian)
Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

Philadelphia

THE EVIL THAT MEN DO
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387 Soviet SS-20s deployed in East Europe, U.S. says

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said that the Soviet Union had deployed at least 387 triple-warhead SS-20 missiles — nine more than Washington's previous count.

U.S. officials said recently that more SS-20s were being deployed but had given no figures. The issue is crucial in the Netherlands, which has said it will accept its full share of 40 cruise missiles only if Moscow continues SS-20 deployments.

The new figure was made public as Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko prepared to resume talks on arms control in Geneva next month.

State Department spokesman Alan Romberg told reporters that since the Nov. 20 Brussels meeting of NATO's special consultative group, when U.S. officials forecast new Soviet deployments, another SS-20 base had become operational.

"Thus, we are raising the number," Mr. Romberg said. "The number of deployed SS-20s is at least 387."

He said more than 10 additional SS-20 bases were under construction. SS-20s are customarily deployed in groups of nine.

"Given the scale of this construction programme, we expect the 387 number will go up, not down," Mr. Romberg said.

Meanwhile, Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko seems to have launched a major bid to revive détente with the United States and could be aiming to make this the hallmark of his rule, Western diplomats said Wednesday.

Commenting on the latest of a series of conciliatory statements on East-West relations by the Kremlin chief, they said there had been a major shift in Soviet attitudes to Washington and that Mr. Chernenko seemed personally responsible.

"Chernenko is now doing all the talking on links with the Americans and has introduced a new

and strikingly friendly tone into Soviet rhetoric on the subject," one diplomat said.

"He appears to be trying to show he is in control of foreign policy and is personally committed to achieving a radical improvement in U.S.-Soviet ties," he added.

But most Western diplomatic analysts said there might have been disputes among the Kremlin leadership over the president's moves to revive an arms dialogue and predicted he could still face strong opposition to his new approach.

"Chernenko seems to want to go down as the man who revived détente and achieved a breakthrough in arms control but there will be powerful groups trying to stop him," one said.

Mr. Chernenko made his latest remarks on relations with Washington at a meeting with U.S. industrialist Armand Hammer Tuesday when he indicated he would favour an early summit with President Reagan if there was some progress on arms control.

He declared that it was time for

both sides to "roll up their sleeves" and draw up concrete agreements on limiting nuclear and space weapons.

At the talks with Mr. Hammer, the 73-year-old leader made the first admission from Moscow that the Kremlin had proposed talks between the two powers in Geneva next month to draw up a programme for negotiations.

Diplomats said the proposal itself marked a major climbdown by Moscow, which had previously insisted that arms talks could only resume if the West withdrew new U.S. medium-range missiles from Western Europe.

They said the policy shift had evidently been decided some time in October after talks between Mr. Reagan and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and might explain signs of a rift in the Communist Party leadership.

The clearest evidence of the rift was a decision not to hold a regular session of the party Central Committee last month, apparently to avoid any dispute coming out into the open.

U.S. allies pressed to improve defences

BRUSSELS (R) — The United States Wednesday pressed its NATO allies to agree to speed up conventional defence improvements following accords to upgrade ground facilities and munitions stocks, diplomats said.

The move came on the second day of a meeting of defence ministers of the 14 countries in the Atlantic alliance's integrated military structure.

Washington was seeking a special programme setting a timetable for priority measures, the diplomats said.

But they said West Germany and other European allies were resisting the plan, arguing that extra money was not available and conventional improvements were already under way within the normal NATO defence planning cycle.

Details of the U.S. proposals were sketchy but diplomats said they appeared aimed at packaging measures in a way that would impress U.S. congressional critics of European defence efforts.

The ministers agreed Tuesday on a multi-billion-dollar effort to improve the basics of conventional defence, aimed partly at appeasing criticism from U.S. Senator Sam Nunn.

The agreements to boost spending on ground facilities and raise munitions stocks met two priorities set by U.S. Senator Sam Nunn last June in an amendment threatening troop withdrawals unless the European allies did more for non-nuclear defence.

U.S. assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Perle called the accords "very important steps that

will lead to a significantly improved conventional capability of the alliance and improve the ability of the United States to reinforce Europe in wartime."

The 14 ministers agreed to spend \$7.85 billion over the next six years to upgrade air bases, communications, command posts and equipment storage sites, an increase of some 40 per cent in real terms over the previous infrastructure fund.

Diplomats said there was talk of the U.S. seeking a NATO "conventional defence initiative", partly to impress Congress, but the idea was meeting resistance.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger was expected to brief his colleagues on Washington's preparations for next month's Geneva talks between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Mr. Perle, regarded as the leading Pentagon hawk on arms control, warned that rapid progress should not be expected.

"These things are not done overnight and that should be borne in mind as people anticipate a two-day meeting on January 7 and 8," he said.

European Ministers Tuesday called for continued deployment of cruise and Pershing-2 nuclear missiles in Europe until the new negotiations produced a concrete result.

Belgium and the Netherlands, both wavering over deployment decisions due next year, endorsed the statement, which appeared to rule out a U.S.-Soviet deployment freeze during the talks.

COLUMNS 7&8

Teacher fired for 'cheating'

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Saudi Arabian Education Ministry has fired and deported an Egyptian schoolteacher allegedly for enabling his students to "cheat" in exams, it was reported here Tuesday. The English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette said that Muhammad Fayed Abdul Aziz has superlatively made available to his students the answers to exam questions. The headmaster of the Qina Preparatory School also was fired by the ministry, said the paper without identifying him. Sources said the headmaster is Saudi.

Bronze Age shipwreck found

WASHINGTON (R) — Archaeologists have said the world's oldest shipwreck, a 3,400-year-old Bronze Age trading vessel, had been discovered and could prove a key to understanding early marine history in the Mediterranean. George Bass, leader of an American-Turkish team which found the wreck off Cape Ulu Burun in southern Turkey, told a press conference the vessel's remains were probably 1,000 years older than any previously found. The vessel foundered around 1400 B.C. and, according to initial theory, was either Greek or Phoenician. It started its voyage from Syria and was sailing west after a stop in Cyprus, Bass said.

Soviet Air Force chief dies

MOSCOW (R) — The chief of the Soviet Air Force, Deputy Defence Minister Marshal Pavel Kutakhov, has died at the age of 70, the official Soviet News Agency TASS said Tuesday. Marshal Kutakhov, air force commander-in-chief for the past six years, had been seriously ill, TASS said, implying that the marshal's death was not unexpected. TASS said he died Monday. He was one of 11 deputies, each with responsibility for a particular section of the armed forces, under Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov and his three first deputies who include the Soviet chief of staff and Marshal Pakt commander. The most probable successor to Marshal Kutakhov would be one of his own immediate deputies, Marshals Grigory Skorikov, 64, and Alexander Yefimov, 61. Marshal Skorikov is air force chief of staff.

Developer of birth control pill dies

NEW YORK (R) — Dr. John Rock, a devout Roman Catholic who helped to develop the birth control pill which the Vatican so strongly opposed, died Tuesday in Peterborough, New Hampshire. A hospital spokeswoman said the 94-year-old obstetrician and gynaecologist died of a heart attack. As director of the Fertility and Endocrine Clinic which he founded at the Free Hospital for Women in Brookline, Massachusetts, Dr. Rock was in 1944 the first research scientist to fertilise a human egg in a test tube.

Parties become part of office life

MOSCOW (R) — Tea breaks and vodka parties in office hours have become a standard part of Russian workers' life at the expense of productivity and relations with the public, a Moscow newspaper reported Wednesday. "This fashion for parties has become as infectious as measles," the Trades Union Newspaper Trud (labour) complained. It recounted the story of one man who arrived at his savings bank with only a rouble (about a dollar) in his pocket to be told there was no time for him to get the stamp needed to draw money, although 30 minutes remained to closing time. The reason, Trud reported, was summed up in the smell of cooking chicken and the popped corks of wine bottles behind the counter as the employees prepared one of their "collective booze-ups."

24 Tamil rebels die after blowing up army convoy

COLOMBO (R) — Troops killed 24 Tamil separatist guerrillas in north-west Sri Lanka after an attack on an army convoy, government spokesman Wickrema Weerasooria said Wednesday.

He said the battle erupted Tuesday after rebels fighting for separate state for the island's Tamil minority detonated a land mine under an army jeep near Mannar, killing one soldier and injuring six others.

Official sources had earlier said 31 guerrillas were killed.

Mr. Weerasooria denied reports by local residents that soldiers went on the rampage and killed several civilians after the attack.

"The government totally denies soldiers went on a rampage and killed villagers," he told reporters. Mr. Weerasooria declined to say whether all those killed by the army had taken part in the attack.

He also said guerrillas had extended a deadline for the release of nine hostages to 3.00 p.m. (0930 GMT) Wednesday.

The Tamil rebels had demanded the release of three colleagues captured by security forces and payment of a \$400,000 ransom in exchange for the hostages by 8.00 a.m. (0230 GMT) Wednesday.

A group called the Tamil Eelam Liberation Army (TELA) said in a note to the government it had seized the hostages but did not say

what would happen if the demands were not met.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathumudali indicated Tuesday that the government would not negotiate with TELA. "Our position on these matters is well known," he told a press conference.

He said the guerrillas had also wanted all Sinhalese, Sri Lanka's majority ethnic group, working at the Kankesanthurai Cement Factory in the northern Jaffna district to be removed.

He said there were only about 200 Sinhalese in the area now, compared to 3,500 in 1981 and 20,000 a few years ago.

The guerrillas asked the government to hand the ransom money to the leaders of the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

"The party deeply resents being implicated in any way in the alleged act of kidnapping. We appeal to those responsible to immediately release unconditionally all persons in their custody," it said.

TELA is one of six major guerrilla groups fighting to establish a separate state in the north for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils.

Mr. Athulathumudali said one of the nine hostages held by TELA was a journalist and the others were workers at the cement factory.

Indian gas death toll reportedly reaches 1,600

BHOPAL, India (R) — The official death toll from a gas leak at a pesticides factory in the central Indian city of Bhopal reached 971.

A Madhya Pradesh state government spokesman announced the latest official casualty toll after the United Nations (UN) news agency estimated that more than 1,200 died in the choking gas cloud.

Madhya Pradesh state Chief Minister Arjun Singh told Press Trust of India (PTI) hospitals have treated 50,000 victims from the town of 700,000 people.

PTI said the up-to-date toll after a tour of hospitals and burial grounds was 1,600.

As the enormity of possibly the world's worst industrial disaster grew, Indian Petroleum and Chemicals Minister Vasant Sathe said the owners of the factory should pay compensation.

The factory, which produces pesticides for agriculture, is owned by the Indian subsidiary of

the U.S. firm, Union Carbide.

A company spokesman told Reuters the U.S. chairman, Warren Anderson, was expected to arrive in India later Wednesday to head a company probe into the cause of the leak. He did not elaborate.

R.N. Bhandari, superintendent at Hamidia Hospital, told reporters 550 deaths had been registered there alone.

Tents have been set up around city hospitals, medical clinics and private nursing homes to accommodate thousands of people seeking treatment for the blinding, suffocating effects of the fumes which spread across the city early on Monday morning.

Doctors said new arrivals were still being admitted for treatment Tuesday night, but pressure on relief centres was gradually easing as extra medical personnel and supplies had been flown in from other Indian cities.

Anglo-Irish rift appears over after Dublin summit

DUBLIN (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has patched up a rift with Irish leader Garret Fitzgerald, pronouncing their relations back on the rails.

Mrs. Thatcher upset Mr. Fitzgerald last month when she publicly rejected any Irish role in the future of Northern Ireland. He described her blunt comments as "gratuitously offensive."

However the two leaders went to great pains to bury the row when they met at a European Community summit over the last two days in Dublin.

Mrs. Thatcher sounded a conciliatory tone at a news conference afterwards, studiously avoiding any comments which might offend her Irish host.

She said that as far as she was concerned, there had never been any rift.

Later Mrs. Thatcher told a television interviewer that if relations had gone off the rails "they're back on them now."

She said she looked forward to further talks with Mr. Fitzgerald early next year on how to end violence in Northern Ireland and reconcile pro-British protestants with

a Catholic minority favouring union with the Irish Republic. Political and sectarian strife has cost at least 2,400 lives in the British-ruled north in the last 15 years.

Mrs. Thatcher was asked at the news conference if she saw any role for the Irish government in the future affairs of Northern Ireland — the key recommendation of a Dublin-sponsored forum earlier this year.

Instead of dismissing it abruptly, as she did in the remarks that ruffled the Irish last month, she fended off the question, insisting: "I'm not going to be drawn on that."

Irish officials were clearly pleased. They did not see it as Mrs. Thatcher softening her line on the issue, but rather as an effort not to start the quarrel all over again.

"She seemed determined that it should all be sweetness and light this time," said one official.

Mr. Fitzgerald likewise spoke cautiously about Anglo-Irish links but admitted the public relations side of his previous talks with Mrs. Thatcher went badly wrong.

Nicaraguan guerrillas kill 23 coffee pickers

MANAGUA (R) — At least 23 people were killed by right-wing guerrillas in the northern Nicaraguan city of Esteli, residents said.

The victims, who included students and workers, were ambushed on their way to work as coffee pickers in the northern province of Nueva Segovia, close to guerrilla bases in neighbouring Honduras.

It was the largest single casualty figure since the U.S.-backed guerrillas started to sabotage the coffee bean harvest and cripple the economy of leftwing Nicaragua which relies on coffee for most of its export earnings.

The bodies were being brought back Tuesday night to Esteli, 150 kilometres north of Managua.

The Agriculture Ministry estimates that around 11,000 tonnes of coffee has been left to rot this year because coffee-pickers have been diverted to help in the country's war effort.

In Washington the Pentagon said Tuesday that Nicaragua "has been receiving military weapons

equipment for several months" but described it as "mostly protective in nature" and said it did not know why the Sandinistas wanted the equipment.

"The equipment observed in Nicaragua so far has been mostly protective in nature," said a Pentagon spokesman, army Lt. Col. Richard Lake.

Officials of the Nicaraguan embassy, asked for a comment about the Pentagon statements, said they had no immediate comment but might comment later.

Col. Lake said the Pentagon evidence came "largely" from a Sept. 2 military parade and show in the Nicaragua town of Montelimar. During the show, the Sandinistas displayed deco-

rationation trucks, protective masks and suits, chemical testing sets, and chemical reconnaissance vehicles.

The four-year-old war between U.S.-backed rebels and Nicaragua's leftist government has killed 7,000 people including 346 children, President-elect Daniel Ortega was quoted as saying.

Rev. Jackson to visit South Africa in January

CHICAGO (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said he will visit South Africa in January to focus attention on the plight of blacks living under apartheid, a system he said has been "reinforced" by policies of the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

Rev. Jackson, who once said apartheid was "worse than Hitler," disclosed his travel plans amid two weeks of protests outside South Africa's embassy in Washington. Nineteen people, including seven House members, have been arrested. Four people also were arrested Monday in New York at the nation's consulate.

The Chicago-based black civil rights leader, an unsuccessful can-

THE WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkenson

GARDEN-FRESH

By William Canino

ACROSS

- Crush with the foot
- Page also
- Support of
- Diamond
- Acquiesce
- Rococo
- Graduate
- March to him
- In a furious manner
- Available
- Type of paper
- Samba
- Psychiatric
- Whitman
- Lacuna et al.
- Historically
- Fairy queen

DOWN

- Gun
- Home of Mrs.
- Philistine hero
- Eye on a peacock's tail
- Psychiatric
- Trains above
- Become aware of
- Ankles
- Rabbits and goats
- Now wretched
- Blindfold
- Fragment root
- Old role
- Vessel
- Endured
- "Star Wars" villain
- Chaplain

Diagramless

18 x 18, by Lara Alexandra

ACROSS

- Span
- Hold name in soccer
- Chatterfield
- Drama
- Clay
- Sports group
- Vehicle of long ago
- Cleaning ingredient
- Fly high

DOWN

- Emerse
- Tale it easy
- Sanctified item
- Call for attention
- Veal or pork
- Regatta item
- Continant
- Leather strip
- Military hat
- Window over a door

15 Wheelie

16 Row

17 Outright

18 Containing oil

19 Vets or pork

20 Villain's look

21 Interrogate

22 Carrom

23 Subdue

24 Mimicked

25 Thaw

26 Snore

27 Once around

28 The track

29 Tale man

30 Obeyed

31 Indigo

32 Wielded

33 Poor grade

34 Part of a chain

35 Put on freight

36 Indian

37 Carry on

38 Fleeting

39 Equipment

40 Thin and piping

41 Wild cat

42 Liquid measure

43 Transfection

44 Part of a chain

45 Put on freight

46 Indian

47 Carry on

48 Fleeting

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107 Carry on

108 Fleeting

109 Equipment

110 Thin and piping

111 Wild cat

112 Liquid measure

113 Transfection

114 Part of a chain

115 Put on freight

116 Indian

117 Carry on